

**IT'S RIGHT
TO TAKE
BACK OUR
SERVICES**

>>Pages 14&15



Judith Orr interviewed about her new book
on Marxism and women's liberation >>Pages 10&11

**'We can have a society
without oppression'**



Socialist Worker

£1 | No 2469 | 5 September 2015 | socialistworker.co.uk

400 REFUGEES KILLED IN A WEEK



STOP THIS MURDER



UK Border



OPEN THE BORDERS, LET THEM IN

GREECE

**Left must not rely
on parliament**

GREECE'S ELECTION on 20 September looks set to produce a confrontation between a government trying to implement austerity and workers' resistance against it.

So it's important for the left to emerge stronger—and the prospects for this are real.

Panos Garganas, editor of Socialist Worker's sister newspaper Workers Solidarity, writes from Greece.

>>Page 6

NATIONAL GALLERY



**Angry strikers
defy bosses' pay
blackmail**

STRIKERS AT the National Gallery in central London have defied bosses' attempts to bully them back to work.

Bosses have docked workers' pay for the whole of the month. They had originally said strikers' pay would only be deducted from the week that the strike began in mid-August.

>>Page 7

ECONOMIC CRISIS

**Made in China—
how the latest
debt crisis spread**

THE GROWING crisis in China's economy could have serious consequences for global capitalism. For the last decade and a half China has accounted for almost a third of world economic growth.

Bosses worry that China may not "stave off social unrest".

>>Page 17

PICTURES: PA AND GUY SWALLMAN



THE THINGS THEY SAY

'We should be looking at HS2 as motorways for trains and the HS2 stations should be hubs and we want spokes going into them'

Tory transport minister **Andrew Jones** used to work in marketing

'The next PM will be Miliband if you don't f*** shut up'**

David Cameron texts Boris Johnson some friendly advice during the election

'Join us and help show what a Lib Dem fight back looks like'

Lib Dem leader **Tim Farron** asks for help from journalists to clean the beach in Bournemouth

'Ensures all communities are treated equally'

Tory communities secretary **Greg Clark** explains the exact opposite of how new Tory rules targeting Travellers will work

'If Carlsberg did illegal immigrants...'

Caption on a photo of a boat full of naked women, posted on social media by Tory councillor **Michael Kusneraitis**



Cameron's cronies don't even turn up for expenses

DAVID CAMERON has dished out peerages to 26 Conservative cronies.

Douglas Hogg is one. He's the former MP infamous for attempting to claim £2,000 expenses to clean the moat at his country estate.

Eleven Lib Dems and eight from Labour will swell the bloated ranks by 45—to more than 800.

Their expenses, £300 a day whenever they turn up, also pile another £1.8 million on the £100 million-a-year running costs.

Multi-millionaire investment banker James Lupton is a joint treasurer of the Tories and was in charge of raising cash for the party's election war chest. With a personal stash of £130 million, he has donated £2.8 million to the party since 2009.

Sir George Young was



HOUSE OF Lords discusses cuts

once a housing minister. He described the homeless as "the people you step over when you are coming out of the opera". Now he's a lord.

Also heading for the Upper Chamber are Phillipa Stroud—aide to welfare slasher Iain Duncan Smith—former Downing Street policy director James O'Shaughnessy

and Cameron's deputy chief of staff Kate Fall.

Previous "donor peers" are failing to make any contribution in the Lords. The Tory donor Simon Wolfson, was granted a peerage by Cameron after the 2010 election to become Lord Wolfson of Aspley Guise.

He did not speak during

any debate in the last session and did not vote on any bill.

Then there is Lord Bamford, the JCB chairman who has given £101,249 to the Conservatives in personal donations and millions more via his company.

He voted three times in the last session and spoke twice—both times about his own company.

Six of the top donors attended parliament fewer than 14 times.

Labour peer Lord Haughey, a Scottish fridge tycoon who has donated £1.7 million to the party, attended seven days in the past year.

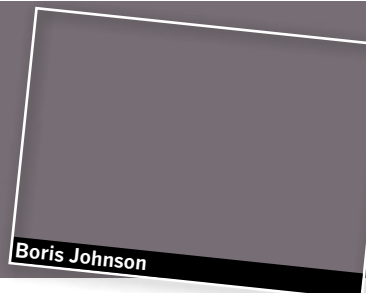
Finally, Michael Bishop, the former owner of the BMI airline, became Lord Glendonbrook in 2011.

He has donated £2.1 million to the Conservatives but at least spoke—once.

STRUGGLING BY on just two political salaries and £275,000 a year for writing a column, Boris Johnson is busy writing a book about William Shakespeare.

The Bard of Bullingdon explains, "I did win the Shakespeare prize at school." Hodder & Stoughton is said to be paying him £500,000.

Which is nice.



Boris Johnson

TROUBLEMAKER JOB spot. "Her Majesty The Queen, Lord of Mann, is represented in the Isle of Man by the Lieutenant Governor. The successful candidate will be diplomatic and tactful... The package includes an official residence, a salary of £95,348, currently tax free." Applications close on 15 September.

Socialist Worker is purged by Labour

WHILE THE Corbyn surge grows some old New Labour methods are back.

The Labour Party has blocked Socialist Worker from reporting at the special leadership election conference on Saturday.

Under Tony Blair Socialist Worker was barred from entering Labour conferences. A thaw in more recent years saw us welcomed with enthusiasm. Or at least let in.

Labour press officers told a Socialist Worker journalist as late as Wednesday of last week that press passes had not been

allocated. But a single-sentence email that same day said, "I'm afraid we won't be able to fit you in."

A press officer was reluctant to explain the decision to exclude an NUJ union press card-carrying journalist.

But when pressed he said, "Socialist Worker is the magazine of the Socialist Workers Party."

"I can't very well tell a national newspaper that they can't come because we've given their space to Socialist Worker."

He didn't confirm which publication this national paper had lost out to.

Labour

Brooks is back but scandals linger

HUMILITY COMES easy to the Murdoch empire.

The Sun newspaper said sorry over Hillsborough, so they re-hired odious former editor Kelvin MacKenzie.

And to show just how sorry they are about all that phone-hacking Rebekah Brooks is back at the helm. When she last held the role of News UK CEO she managed

to miss the industrial scale phone-hacking, blagging and other dark arts going on

around her. The case of "Fake Sheikh" Mazher Mahmood still hangs around. Even if the CPS decline to bring a prosecution against him for perjury following the collapse of the Tulisa Contostavlos trial, there are appeals against six of his "stings".

How little Brooks knew of the use of Jonathon Rees and others to spy

on cops investigating the murder of private detective Daniel Morgan remains a mystery.

Rebekah Brooks

A nice day in the park on the SNP

THE Scottish government has donated £150,000 to T in the Park which Troublemaker understands to be a gathering of people to listen to popular music.

Festival organisers had a meeting with senior Scottish government figures.

The £150,000 was given to DF Concerts.

Jennifer Dempsie, a former adviser to Alex Salmond and partner of the Westminster SNP leader Angus Robertson, set up a meeting between Geoff Ellis of DF Concerts and culture secretary Fiona Hyslop.

DF Concerts made pre-tax profits of more than £4.5 million. Dempsie started work for DF Concerts in February.



TOFF OF THE WEEK

Greg Barker Former Tory environment minister

● Given a peerage in David Cameron's "crony list" last week

● Already has got eight other jobs in the energy sector since leaving office last July.

● He once boasted, "We are making cuts that Margaret Thatcher, back in the 1980s, could only have dreamed of."

Hattersley the lordly hypocrite

ROY HATTERSLEY has resigned from the House of Lords because he says it's "unequal".

He can't be bothered traipsing to London to pick up his £300-a-day allowance reminiscing about the past 18 years he's spent in the unequal Lords.

This was a chamber he entered as a reward for being a Labour "moderniser".

Hattersley isn't severing all his ties though. He's keeping his title of baron.

Get in touch with Socialist Worker



Email reports@socialistworker.co.uk

Web www.socialistworker.co.uk

Facebook "Socialist Worker (Britain)"

Twitter @socialistworker



Newsdesk 020 7819 1180
Circulation 020 7819 1171



Write to Socialist Worker PO Box 42184 London SW8 2WD

Corbyn campaign faces a pressure to compromise

by TOMÁŠ TENGELY-EVANS

THE MOMENTUM behind Jeremy Corbyn's leadership campaign is growing despite right wing attacks.

He toured the north of England last Saturday, with a series of mass rallies in Derby, Sheffield and Manchester.

Up to 1,600 joined the rally in Manchester, there were 1,200 in Sheffield and 700 in Derby.

Mark Krantz from Manchester told Socialist Worker, "There were lots of young people and trade unionists, as well as long-standing campaigners."

"Everyone was smiling—the mood felt like an assertion of hope over fear."

The Labour Party establishment is ramping up smears and unsuccessfully trying to outmanoeuvre Corbyn.

Former Labour prime minister Tony Blair made yet another intervention in the leadership contest.

He accused Corbyn supporters of living in a "parallel universe" and warned people to reject "Alice in Wonderland" policies. It's Blair, the war criminal, who has lost touch with reality.

Radical

People are looking for a radical alternative to austerity—and the focus across much of Britain has become the Corbyn campaign.

NUT union member Martin Sear was at the Derby rally. He told Socialist Worker, "For Derby to get 700 at a political meeting is significant."

"It was the biggest meeting since the height of the Stop the War campaign."

"It was very enthusiastic. Corbyn talked about nationalisation, looking after people who need help and getting rid of Trident."

In Manchester speakers ripped into the Tories' claims of building a



CHEERING FOR Jeremy Corbyn in Manchester

PICTURE: MARK KRANTZ

"Northern Powerhouse" and regional devolution.

Lancaster and Fleetwood MP Cat Smith said, "George Osborne's Northern Powerhouse—in reality it's about Northern Power Cuts."

"Devo Manc is not about devolving power—it's about devolving cuts."

"We need the kind of devolution that works—and Jeremy has an alternative programme on that."

But this isn't a two dog race between the Labour left and the Blairites.

Labour leadership contender Andy Burnham has spent the last week

somersaulting, unable to deal with the Corbyn surge. He warned people to heed Blair's warnings and said he could still beat Corbyn.

But Burnham has said he would work with Corbyn—hoping to neutralise a Corbyn leadership's policies.

Last week it was hinted that Burnham would demand to be shadow chancellor.

Corbyn's rallies look and feel like a political movement.

Vibrant

Actor Julie Hesmondhalgh told the Manchester rally, "I see a vibrant new movement. I see thousands of people joining the Labour Party."

"We need to build a mass movement of people who 'give a toss about stuff'."

Corbyn talks about the need to build the movement. But he also faced pressure to make compromises in order to make Labour more "electable".

In fact, it is boldness and radicalism that have built his campaign—this is no time to retreat.

Guardian newspaper columnist Owen Jones is wrong to say that it's crucial for an "image of moderation" to be built and that Labour councils must continue to make cuts.

And whatever the result on 12 September we need fighting unity on the left around action.

We cannot wait five more Tory years. And this energy can't be allowed to dissipate into the Labour machine.

We need to build the movement outside—beginning with the 4 October demonstration at the Tory party conference.

Thanks to Jay Williams

On other pages

Let's take back our assets
>>Pages 14&15

Abortion report refutes racist myths

THERE IS no evidence that abortions are taking place in Britain on grounds of sex, according to a new government report.

This refutes racist claims repeatedly made by right wing newspapers about sex selective abortions.

The Department of Health (DoH) published its findings last week. It said, "We have found no substantiated concerns of gender abortions occurring in England, Wales and Scotland."

The study looked at male to female birth ratios for all mothers in Britain between 2009 and 2013.

It also looked at the mother's country of birth and the ethnicity of the child where data was available.



An Abortion Rights lobby in February

PICTURE: GUY SMALLMAN

There were 3.9 million registered births in Britain and the ratio of boys to girls was 105.2. A ratio of around 105 male births per 100 female births is considered normal with an upper limit of 107.

One Daily Mail newspaper story in January claimed, "Thousands of female foetuses have been killed due to gender-based abortion within some ethnic groups."

There was no evidence for this. Instead the Mail pointed to census figures showing differences in the sex ratio of children across ethnic groups.

The DoH showed that these differences are not statistically significant, but the result of random variation.

The story has been racist from the start. The Mail blamed it on "cultures" that view boys as "more desirable for religious or economic reasons".

Sadie Robinson

IN BRIEF

Hillsborough inquests open

FRESH INQUESTS into the deaths of people who died as a result of the Hillsborough football disaster resumed on Tuesday of this week.

Some 96 Liverpool fans died as a result of a crush at the Sheffield stadium in April 1989. The High Court in December 2012 quashed the original inquest verdicts.

● See socialistworker.co.uk for updates

Tory splash out on Trident base

CHANCELLOR George Osborne doesn't just make cuts. He announced £500 million of new investment to expand the Faslane submarine base in Scotland—home to the Trident nuclear weapons.

Taking food from infants

FREE SCHOOL meals for four to seven year olds could be under threat in the Tories' autumn spending review.

Documents show that funding for universal infant school meals will not be ring-fenced in the review.

It's set to be published on 25 November.

Bonfire of local authorities

COUNCILS WILL be unable to provide basic services if there are further cuts, according to the Tory-led Local Government Association this week.

Their government funding has been axed by 40 percent since 2010.

ON THE WEB

Top five hits this week on www.socialistworker.co.uk

- 1 **Mass demonstrations in Beirut against the regime**
- 2 **Syriza fell because it gave in to the bosses' demands for austerity**
- 3 **All-out National Gallery strike over privatisation grows stronger**
- 4 **Rotherham abuse victims speak out**
- 5 **Markets in turmoil expose myth of economic recovery**

Unite the Resistance
National Conference 2015

**DEFENDING
OUR UNIONS
-ORGANISING
TO WIN**

Sat 14 Nov

Bloomsbury Central
Baptist Church

235 Shaftesbury Avenue,
London WC2H 8EP

Book online now uniteresist.org



Europe's border clampdown is to blame for refugees' deaths

by SADIE ROBINSON

BACK STORY

AT LEAST 400 refugees died last week because governments refuse to let them into Europe.

Two boats sank after leaving Zuwara on the Libyan coast on Thursday of last week. They were carrying over 500 people between them and planned to head for Italy. Only 201 were rescued.

The decomposing bodies of 71 migrants, including four children, were found in a lorry in Austria on the same day.

Austrian authorities later seized another lorry nearby, which had 34 migrants in the back. Many said they had been almost unable to breathe.

Three children were hospitalised after being found in the back of a minivan in a group of 26 migrants. A police spokesperson said, "They would not have endured this ordeal for much longer."

Blame

Politicians have rushed to blame "traffickers" for the horrors. But it is European governments' immigration policies that force migrants into such danger—and give the traffickers their trade.

For Tory leader David Cameron, refugees are a "swarm" that must be kept out at all costs. His government, like many others, has made it near impossible for people to move around safely and claim asylum.

Britain has refused to take any of the asylum seekers arriving in Europe this year from the Middle East and Africa. Migrants using dangerous routes do so because they have no other choice.

The majority of some 40,000 refugees who have arrived in Hungary this month are from Syria.

The 71 migrants found dead in the lorry in Austria are thought to be from Syria.

More than 4 million people have fled Syria since 2011 according to the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees.

More refugees died trying to get into Europe last week

● Immigration controls force migrants to take dangerous routes and create a market for traffickers

● Conflicts, including the civil war in Syria, are fuelling a historic refugee crisis—yet Britain's government refuses to let in more than a handful

● New fences and thousands of police officers are being put in place at Europe's borders to keep people out

Over half of them are children. Many others come from Iraq and Afghanistan. They have every right to try and find a better and safer life for themselves and their children.

Many ordinary people across Europe are organising to show solidarity with refugees (see right). But their governments remain determined to put the boot in.

The Macedonian government is using riot cops and wire fences to defend its border. Hungary's government was set to finish building a 110-mile fence this week.

It announced last week the deployment of 2,100 police officers to control its border with Serbia.

Hungarian minister Janos Lazar said the government had considered sending in the military. Hungary's parliament was set to discuss using the army on its borders this week.

The International Organization for Migration said nearly 300,000 people have crossed the Mediterranean this year. Around 2,400 have died.

Britain's government, like many others, would prefer to watch refugees suffocate in lorries or drown in the sea than offer any help.

They have blood on their hands.

On other pages...

Greek left must not rely on parliament >> **Page 6**

The myth of 'full up' Britain

RIGHT wingers claim that a few thousand refugees in Calais would overwhelm Britain if they were allowed in.

Yet Britain has more than enough money to help such a tiny number of people.

Germany has said it will accept some 800,000 asylum seekers this year.



It has said any Syrian refugee in Germany can stay.

In 2014 Germany accepted 97,275 asylum seekers, France 68,500, Italy 35,180 and Sweden 39,905. They have not collapsed.

Meanwhile, Britain received 25,870 asylum applications—and accepted just 10,050.

HUNGARIAN POLICE arrest a family of Syrian refugees at the Serbian border

Tories lash out at migrant workers

NOT CONTENT with demonising refugees, Tory home secretary Theresa May has gone on the offensive against all migrants.

Office for National Statistics figures recently showed that net migration to Britain has hit a record high of 330,000. May told the Sunday Times newspaper that the figures are "unsustainable".

She wrote that immigration "puts pressure on infrastructure, such as housing and transport, and public services, such as schools and hospitals."

Funding

In reality services are suffering because the Tories have slashed their funding and opened them up to the market. There's a crisis in housing because successive governments sold off council housing and let private landlords charge what they like.

None of this has anything to do with migrants. And we have the resources to vastly expand services to provide for a growing

population. But the Tories would prefer that wealth stays with their rich mates.

May argued that only migrants from Europe who have a job to come to should be allowed into Britain.

She tried to redefine the idea of "free movement" of workers to mean freedom to move only if you have a job.

Some right wing newspapers, along with the racist Ukip party, have singled out Romanian and Bulgarian migrants for attack.

The figures do show a sharp

rise in the number of people coming to Britain from Romania and Bulgaria over the last 12 months.

But they also show that many more people have come from the 15 countries that have been members of the European Union since before 2004.

Some 116,000 people came to Britain from these countries, including Germany, Spain and Italy, in the year up until March.

That compares to 53,000 who came from Romania and Bulgaria.

Home secretary Theresa May and David Cameron

NEWS

Campaigners take solidarity to migrants stuck in Calais

CAMPAIGNERS in Britain are organising solidarity actions with refugees in Calais and elsewhere.

Border police disgracefully stopped one group on their return from Calais, threatening to refuse one activist the "leave to enter" Britain.

The Glasgow Campaign to Welcome Refugees is planning a solidarity trip this month to support refugees on the Greek island of Lesbos.

Amal Azzudin—a Somali refugee who was part of the "Glasgow Girls" campaign—Turkish refugee Pinar Aksu and campaigner Margaret Woods are among them.

They are appealing for money to buy supplies for refugees.

Stand Up To Racism has called two solidarity delegations to support migrants in Calais. The first is set



A standoff with cops in Calais

PICTURE: GUY SMALLMAN

for this Saturday.

Stand Up To Racism joint national secretary Weyman Bennett told Socialist Worker, "We are

bringing about £4,000 worth of goods with us including dried food and sleeping bags. We are bringing winter clothes for the months ahead.

"We are also bringing solidarity messages from trade unions and campaign groups. Our main message and

reason for going is to demand that David Cameron lets these people into Britain.

"We are talking about 3,000 people—it's a tiny number.

"It's ridiculous that people are dying while governments refuse to sort this out. Stand Up To Racism and others plan to call more actions in Britain."

For more details go to standuptoracism.org.uk

Donate to the Glasgow appeal at

tinyurl.com/nn2norn

Refugees and campaigners hold protests across Europe

A MASS protest to welcome refugees took place in Vienna, Austria on Monday of this week.

Police said 20,000 people took part.

Migrants had forced Hungary's government to let them board trains to Austria and Germany.

But it closed the main station in Budapest the next day.

Thousands joined a pro-refugee protest in Dresden, Germany, last Saturday.

Organisers, the Anti-Nazi Alliance, said 5,000 joined the demonstration. It followed a series of anti-migrant protests.

Marchers chanted, "Say it loud, say it clear, refugees are welcome here."

Football fans at several matches across Germany held banners reading "Refugees Welcome" last weekend.

Glasgow Celtic fans also unfurled a pro-migrant banner.

Hundreds of migrants protested at the Hungarian border on Friday of last week.

After being held for some time migrants chanted, "We want to go to camp!"

Refugees protested at Budapest rail station, Hungary, last Saturday demanding to be let onto trains to Germany.

People lit candles at the station last Sunday to remember the 71 migrants found dead in a lorry in Austria.

'In Syria there is only killing'

MOHAMMED, a 22 year old Syrian student, travelled to Greece in the hope of reaching Germany.

He told Al Jazeera, "In Syria, there is only killing. I need a new life. I will get that in Germany."

Mohammed was in a group of 50 people who came to the Greek island of Lesbos

by boat. He said, "We paid £780 each. I had to steer the boat.

"I have never done this before and I was afraid. It was dark and the children were screaming."

Around two million Syrian refugees are currently in Turkey.

Thousands gather in the coastal city of Izmir, along with Iraqi

refugees, in the hope of getting to Greece by boat.

Khaled, aged 51, left Damascus in Syria, in 2012. He said, "All Syrians staying here would go back to Syria if the war ended.

"Never in our lives have we thought of leaving Syria, but now we don't have a choice."

Socialist Worker
WHAT WE THINK

BUILD RESISTANCE—MAKE MANCHESTER MASSIVE

JEREMY Corbyn's campaign for the Labour leadership has captured ordinary people's deep-seated anger with the austerity consensus.

Socialist arguments are getting a real hearing.

Many of the students and young workers who took to the streets after the Tories were elected in May have been enthused by Corbyn's success.

Socialist Worker hopes that success continues. We hope that Corbyn becomes the next leader of the Labour Party.

He says that whatever the result is on 12 September, the movement that's grown is not going away.

We agree with him—and we cannot wait five more years until we see resistance strong enough to boot the Tories out of office.

The government's latest attacks on the NHS and welfare show what's at stake (see page 20).

We need to turn the anger over endless austerity, inequality, racism and war into a force that can give the Tories and bosses a real kicking.

There's just a month to go until the demonstration called

for 4 October by the Trades Union Congress at the Tory party conference in Manchester.

Every trade unionist and campaigner should be there with their friends and workmates.

Trade unions must pump out publicity and lay on as much transport as possible to ensure a massive turnout of their members and everyone else who wants to come.

We must push for the demonstration—and the People's Assembly events surrounding it—to be the springboard for a sustained fightback against the Tories. We need marches, occupations, campaigns of defiance and resistance.

Building the movement on the streets and in the workplaces must start now

RULERS CAUSE RACISM

MANY politicians would have us believe that working class people are racist. They say they talk about immigration so much to address people's "real concerns".

It's true that some working class people are racist. But this racism isn't natural—it comes from the top. The ruling class puts a lot of energy into encouraging division among ordinary people.

Newspaper owners print front pages demonising migrants. Politicians make speeches about

the "problem" of immigration and draw up laws to be "tough" on it.

Right wingers encourage us to blame refugees for all our problems. But not everyone buys into the lies.

Desperate refugees have died in their thousands over the summer trying to escape war and poverty.

Racist immigration controls are to blame for those deaths.

But many ordinary people have organised to help migrants. Across Europe they have opened

their homes to refugees who have nowhere else to go.

They have collected food and other supplies. Cafes have let migrants use their bathrooms and electricity to charge phones.

And people have protested to demand that refugees be made welcome.

Our rulers like to pretend that working class people are all racist bigots. They paint themselves as the defenders of civilisation and progress.

The truth is the opposite.

SOCIALIST REVIEW

SEPTEMBER ISSUE OUT NOW — ONLY £3

Welfare and unions under attack
THE TORIES' WAR ON US ALL
Siobhan Brown and Ralph Darlington

Greek workers still fighting **Costas Pittas**
The climate movement **Suzanne Jeffery**
EU referendum debate **James Anderson**

To order copies or subscribe contact 020 7819 1176, office@socialistreview.org.uk or www.socialistreview.org.uk

Get Socialist Worker every week

If you liked this issue of Socialist Worker, why not subscribe?

You'll receive 20 pages of news, analysis and political debate every week for just £5 a month

For more details phone 020 7819 1171 or email circ@socialistworker.co.uk



ANALYSIS

PANOS GARGANAS



Greek left must not rely on parliament

GREECE'S ELECTION looks set to produce a confrontation between a new coalition government trying to implement austerity and workers' resistance against it.

So it's important for the left to emerge stronger—and the prospects for this are real.

The first opinion polls after the summer break show former prime minister Alexis Tsipras off to a very weak start in the election campaign. He is struggling to rally the people who voted for his left wing party Syriza back in January, because his U-turn on austerity has put him in direct conflict with them.

Amid mass resignations and a major split, Tsipras has two main tactics for Syriza's election campaign.

He is promising that Syriza can "do austerity better". That means implement the package of attacks dictated by the European Union (EU), the International Monetary Fund, the bankers and the rich but soften the toughest measures.

But there's no basis for this. The economy is not improving and he already failed to win these achievements this year.

Then he's trying to polarise the vote between Syriza and the Tory party, New Democracy. He argues that people must vote Syriza to make sure that the failed political system that imposed so many sacrifices on them can't come back.

This is squeezing smaller parties, such as Syriza's former coalition partner the right wing nationalist Independent Greeks, as well as the so-called centre left.

But the reality is that Syriza and New Democracy voted together for the austerity deal and now face the prospect of forming a coalition government together.

At the same time a third force is joining the left opposition. Previously it was mainly the Communist Party inside parliament and the anti-capitalist left coalition Antarsya outside it.

Now a split from Syriza to the left, Popular Unity (PU), is opposing the bailout deal and calling for a break with the euro. This is a step forward, and it means we can expect more voices supporting workers' resistance.

Alternative

But then comes the question of how you support that resistance. Tsipras has attacked the left by saying we have no alternative. We must answer that by outlining one. That's why it's important to raise anti-capitalist demands.

For example, Tsipras claims that PU's proposals to leave the euro will mean austerity with the drachma and that this will be even worse. He says it will lead to devaluation and inflation—hitting wages, pensions and savings.

PU's main economic spokesperson, Costas Lapavistas, responds that the drachma will stabilise and the government can help wages recover. Its leader, former energy minister Panagiotis Lafazanis, says "re-adopting the drachma is not a catastrophe".

This doesn't really respond to the scaremongering.

The point is that the crisis Tsipras predicts isn't automatic. The drachma won't devalue itself—the bosses will devalue it through capital flight. The same bosses will drive up prices through speculation.

So fighting austerity has to mean fighting the bosses.

Antarsya proposed a common campaign with PU if they agreed to anti-capitalist measures, such as breaking with the EU and imposing workers' control. The gist was about making sure workers defend themselves through their own organisations and activity rather than relying on parliament.

This was rejected, so we will have to campaign separately. But we are hopeful that after the election we can unite in fighting back.

A trade union demonstration in Thessalonica this Saturday will be an opportunity for all the left—Antarsya, PU and the Communist Party. We can push for a big turnout to show we are mobilising against the austerity deal.

And there will be protests outside the trial of the fascist Golden Dawn party when it restarts next week.

Anti-fascists are also organising to make sure people don't forget that two years ago this month Golden Dawn supporters murdered anti-racist Pavlos Fyssas.

July's referendum showed workers' anger at the austerity deal. Their determination to fight back hasn't gone away.

Panos Garganas is editor of Workers' Solidarity, Socialist Worker's sister newspaper in Greece

Tsipras says 'only forward' as support goes backwards

by DAVE SEWELL

DAYS AFTER Greece's caretaker government was sworn in and set a date for new elections last week, the first of a new wave of cuts started to bite.

Pensioners' monthly payments for September had been cut by 6 percent, as one of the conditions for a bailout from Greece's international creditors.

Organisations including the European Central Bank loaned Greece £17 billion in the first instalment last month—just in time for it to make a payment on existing debt to the European Central Bank.

The pension cut is just a fraction of the austerity measures promised in return. Many more attacks are on their way.

And the damage to left wing party Syriza has already been severe.

Negative

In the first opinion polls in months, Syriza's lead over the Tory party New Democracy collapsed from between 12 and 15 points to between 1.5 and 2.5 points.

One poll suggested that 72 percent of people viewed the Syriza-coalition government negatively, compared to just 22 percent who saw it positively.

But since stepping down for new elections, prime minister Alexis Tsipras has found support from a less likely direction.

New Democracy's new interim leader Evangelos Meimarakis said he'd be willing to join a coalition government with him.

The election is set to



POLICE ATTACKED protests at the Skouries mine under the Tories (top). Alexis Tsipras (left) is losing support



figure to announce she would stand in the elections alongside Popular Unity, a split to Syriza's left.

It already counted many MPs, central committee members and even ministers.

Even the party's 53 Group faction, considered much closer to the leadership, slammed Tsipras' U-turn on the bailout in a new conference.

And an annual demonstration in Thessalonica to take place this Saturday, was given extra significance after a violent police attack on environmental protesters in the region.

Campaigners at Skouries in the Halkidiki peninsula are fighting a massive and environmentally devastating

gold mine. There have been protests all over Greece in their support—particularly in nearby Thessalonica, Greece's second city.

In a defensive speech to a party conference, Tsipras refused to be deterred.

"Whoever wants to mourn, can mourn," he said. "Whoever wants to escape has the right to escape. We are moving forward, only forward."

"Only forward" is to be Syriza's slogan for the election.

But if he looked back at all, Tsipras would see that his party only got its chance after previous governments were broken by resistance to their austerity. His own risks becoming the latest.

McDonald's workers forge global alliance

FAST FOOD workers from 20 countries met in Brazil recently in a 90-strong delegation of global allies of the "Fight for 15" US-wide strike movement.

It was organised by the US union SEIU, with support from the IUF international food union federation and Brazilian unions. Participants included the Fast Food Rights campaign from Britain, led by the Bfawu bakers' union.

They attended a senate hearing that launched an investigation into McDonald's. Adriana works



Workers from all over the world met in Brazil against poverty pay

for McDonald's in Chicago. "Seeing McDonald's workers from over 20 countries, that's powerful," she said. "We started with just one city—it's awesome. 'I'm paid barely above

minimum wage. I work for this billion-dollar company, I don't want my child to be living in that basement we live in."

The delegation joined demonstrations at

McDonald's organised by Brazilian unions, with over 1,000 in Sao Paulo, and over 100 in Brasilia.

McDonald's workers across the globe, and other low paid US workers who joined the Fight for 15 strikes as they spread to other sectors, told stories of their struggle.

A Tampa Bay childcare worker, currently homeless, explained, "I care for children, and I go to work not knowing where I'll put my head down. Everyone deserves to receive a living wage!" **Julie Sherry**

Angry staff defy gallery bosses' pay blackmail

Solidarity has made all the difference for National Gallery strikers out to stop privatisation, says Nick Clark

STRIKERS AT the National Gallery in central London have defied bosses' attempts to bully them back to work.

The members of the PCS union began an all-out strike last month following the outsourcing of some 300 jobs to private firm Securitas.

Strikers are fighting to secure their terms and conditions before Securitas takes over in November.

When strikers received their wage slips last week they found bosses had docked their pay for the whole of the month.

But gallery managers had originally said strikers' pay would only be deducted from the week that the strike began in mid-August.

The gallery's head of human resources sent a letter to all strikers offering them an advance loan of one week's wages if they returned to work.

The desperate move came as negotiations between the PCS and gallery director Gabriele Finaldi continue.

Strikers were able to use their strike fund to help them beat the bosses' blackmail—thanks to donations from supporters across Britain.

Determined

The bosses' pressure has only made them more determined to fight.

One striker told Socialist Worker, "They did that with our pay to piss us off. But they don't seem to realise that the more they piss us off, the more we want to fight."

And victimised PCS union rep Candy Udwin told a picket line, "Because of the amazing support from people all over the country, whatever the gallery throw at us, we're able to throw back at them."

"Our message is we're staying out until we win. We're not going to be bullied back to work."

The fact that the strike fund was strong enough to help defy the bosses shows there is widespread support for the walkout.

So does an online petition of more than 130,000 signatures against the privatisation. Strikers

were set to hand copies of the petition to Finaldi and culture minister Ed Vaizey on Thursday of this week.

Management's ploy also shows why the strikers will need continued donations to the fund to help them fight on.

And it's also important to link the fight at the National Gallery with other disputes.

Gallery workers visited striking rail workers from First Great Western (see page 19) at London's Paddington station after their picket line last Saturday.

And they sent messages of support to striking PCS members at the National Museum Wales, the National Museums Scotland and the Driver and Vehicle Licensing Agency.

They were all out on the same day (see page 18).

United

This points to the potential for united action.

PCS culture sector president Clara Paillard told strikers last Saturday, "In Scotland they've been inspired by the National Gallery dispute and took seven days' action."

"In Wales because they've been inspired by you they've decided to go for more."

"Today all sites are out together. But we need more people to come out together."

"This is not just about the National Gallery, National Museums Scotland or National Museum Wales. This is about austerity."



Stand in solidarity with a crucial strike

● Donate to the strike fund—Sort code 08 60 01, account no. 20169002. Cheques to PCS Culture Media and Sport Association, c/o PCS North West Region, Jack Jones House, 1 Islington, Liverpool L3 8EG

● Sign the online petition at bit.ly/1kELiGx

● Join the strikers to hand in the petition this Thursday from 1pm outside the National Gallery, Trafalgar Square, central London

● Go to the picket lines, every day 9am-11am



STRIKERS FROM Welsh and Scottish museums and the DVLA joined the picket line

PICTURE: SOCIALIST WORKER

POLICE

Scottish top cop House's downfall follows years of scandalous policing

by RAYMIE KIERNAN

SCOTLAND'S CHIEF cop announced last week he is to resign by the end of the year, almost a year earlier than planned. His resignation was prompted by a huge backlash over repeated scandals.

Under House's reign stop and search figures went through the roof. Cops stopped children, and searches were often illegal.

Armed cops were deployed to routine incidents and officers spied on journalists.

House implemented the Scottish National Party's (SNP) merging of Scotland's police forces into a single one. As with

Stephen House

the merging of the fire service it was used to conceal cuts.

It also reveals a reactionary streak running through the SNP. SNP justice minister Michael Matheson praised House's "lasting positive legacy".

The SNP resisted calls for House's head but the pressure became unbearable with more reports on their way on the back of two more scandals.

The death of Sheku Bayoh in police custody (see page 9) has brought a series of serious criticisms of Police Scotland's actions, not least the treatment of Sheku's family.

And the response to a report of a car crash not acted on for three days created huge outrage. John Yuill died at the scene and Lamara Bell later died in hospital.

The fight against House's regime will continue—but seeing a top cop forced to resign is something to savour.

New fund to fight injustice

A NEW permanent fund has been set up to help people affected by deaths in police custody.

Campaigners and relatives of Mikey Powell launched the Mikey Powell

Memorial Family Fund to mark 12 years since his death in a Birmingham police station.

His sister Sieta Lambrias said, "It's been a long fight for justice since then and

many thousands of other families are still struggling to find out why and how their loved one died."

To donate or find out more go to mikeypowell-campaign.org.uk/donations

FIGURE IT OUT

1,516

people have died in custody or after contact with police since 1990

0

police officers have been convicted

IN BRIEF

Journalists face prison in Egypt

A COURT in Egypt has sentenced three Al-Jazeera journalists to three-year jail terms after they were convicted of “spreading false news”.

The three are Canadian-Egyptian Mohamed Fahmy, Egyptian Baher Mohamed and Australian Peter Greste. Peter Greste was tried in absentia after he was deported to Australia earlier this year.

The journalists were given sentences of between seven and ten years last year. Their convictions were overturned before a retrial.

Peter Greste insisted, “We will continue to fight this, using any available means open to us.”

Thousands of political prisoners are held in Egypt’s jails.

Scandal sparks Malaysia protest

TENS OF thousands of people protested in Malaysia last weekend demanding the resignation of prime minister Najib Razak, who is embroiled in a corruption scandal.

Protesters wore the yellow shirts of the Bersih movement,



A protester in Malaysia

which campaigns for fair elections, even though yellow clothing had been banned.

The protests follow demonstrations last week that saw 17 students arrested.

The left wing Socialist Party of Malaysia demanded the students’ unconditional release.

Clashes with cops in Kiev

POLICE AND nationalists clashed outside the Ukrainian parliament this week as MPs debated granting autonomy to the southeastern Donetsk and Luhank regions.

Autonomy was a key part of February’s peace deal with Russian-back separatists.

Ukraine agreed a debt restructuring deal with some of its creditors last week. But Russia refused to take part.

It will mean huge cuts for workers—but the government’s had an easy ride compared to Greece. Nato began naval drills in the Black Sea last week.

Row over cuts is behind Northern Ireland’s crisis

by SIMON BASKETTER

OFFICIAL POLITICS in Northern Ireland has been thrown into crisis.

Two masked gunmen killed Kevin McGuigan in Belfast last month. McGuigan had been accused of killing Gerard Davison, a former Belfast Irish Republican Army (IRA) commander.

His murder would probably have become another statistic. But the Police Service of Northern Ireland (PSNI) chose to intervene.

Chief constable George Hamilton announced that “some Provisional IRA organisational infrastructure continues to exist”.

Sinn Fein leader Gerry Adams denied this.

The Ulster Unionist party (UUP) stated its intention to withdraw its single minister from Stormont, the devolved Northern Ireland assembly. That pushed the larger Democratic Unionist Party (DUP) into action.

Its leaders said it will move to have Sinn Fein excluded from the Northern Ireland assembly.

Theresa Villiers, the Tory Northern Ireland minister, whined that the IRA “shouldn’t still exist”.

Some 17 years after the signing of the Belfast Agreement, the assembly at Stormont is locked in crisis.

Deadlock

It is paralysed by communal division and deadlock over Tory-imposed welfare cuts.

Elections loom next year in Northern and Southern Ireland.

The southern establishment, desperate to reverse Sinn Fein’s rise in the polls, has lined up with sectarian northern Unionists.

Labour leader Joan Burton said



SOME 80,000 people protested in Dublin against water charges last Saturday

PICTURE: RIGHT2WATER

the IRA was “an insidious threat”.

She wants to deflect attention from Labour’s rotten role in implementing austerity in coalition with the right wing Fine Gael party.

Peace in Northern Ireland is based on policing ordinary Protestants and Catholics apart.

While Catholics face systematic oppression, the divide also holds down Protestant workers.

The DUP and Sinn Fein can’t address the sectarianism because they need it to stay in office.

Politicians fight “resource wars” for “their” rival communities and make every political debate sectarian. So in the South Sinn Fein is against cuts, in the North it is for some of them.

If the Northern Irish assembly falls apart, direct rule could return and the British government will push through cuts.

Importantly tens of thousands of public sector workers across Northern Ireland took part in the biggest one-day strike there in

years in March. It was against a proposed cuts package.

Last weekend in the South the movement against water charges saw tens of thousands march.

Those strikes and demonstrations hold out the prospect of an alternative to sectarianism and austerity, North and South.

More online

For more on the water protests see bit.ly/1JGEjgl

ISRAEL

Veolia withdrawal in Jerusalem marks victory for campaign

by NICK CLARK

INFRASTRUCTURE FIRM Veolia has sold its shares in the Jerusalem Light Rail (JLR) network—meaning it has completely ended all business in Israel.

This is a victory for the Boycott, Divestment and Sanctions (BDS) campaign.

The JLR is designed to link illegal Israeli settlements in the occupied West Bank with the Israeli state. It is a vital part of Israel’s occupation of Palestinian land.

Veolia held a 5 percent stake in CityPass, the company that owns

the JLR. But according to monitor group Who Profits, Veolia sold all its shares in CityPass last month.

The sale marks the end of Veolia’s gradual withdrawal from Israel under pressure from the global BDS movement.

BDS campaigners forced at least ten councils in Britain to end waste management contracts with Veolia.

And the campaign meant that the Israeli government was unable to find an international company willing to buy Veolia’s stake in the JLR.

A Who Profits statement said, “Due to the controversy surrounding the light rail, it appeared that international

companies were hesitant to take on Veolia’s role”.

The victory proves that BDS campaigns can be effective. But the pressure must be kept up.

Campaigners were set to protest at the Wales vs Israel football match in Cardiff this Sunday.

And activists are preparing protests for Israeli prime minister Binyamin Netanyahu, expected visit to Britain later this month.

Join the protest in Cardiff on Sunday 6 September at 2pm with a march from the City Hall to Cardiff City Stadium. There will be a rally until kick-off at 5pm. For more details and information about transport go to palestinecampaign.org/events/ cardiffally.org and rcir.org.uk



Protests can get results

Best £3 I ever spent

SOCIALIST WORKER is right to say that the campaign for Jeremy Corbyn for Labour leader could create the illusion that the Labour Party is the way to win change.

That said, I registered to vote, and voted Corbyn.

One of my favourite movie quotes—from Young Guns II—is when William H “Billy The Kid” Bonney loaded his shotgun with coins, blew Fat Bob away then laughed and said “Best one dollar eighty I ever spent”.

I hopefully get to blow £3 away, and it will be the best £3 quid I ever spent.

But I’m under no illusions.

Ganty

Ex-Frickley NUM rank and file

Heartless dull suburbs

YOUR ARTICLE about the police crackdown ahead of Carnival (Socialist Worker, 29 August) was good and made very valid points about the loss of space for community activities.

If you turn the whole area into a gentrified ghetto, there’s no space for creativity and Notting Hill will become just another dull suburb without a heart. Many would say that has already happened.

It’s frustrating when the media report the wrong story.

For instance, they talk about crime instead of the effort that goes into creating Carnival and the fact that 99 percent of people who take part or watch the event have a great time.

Stephen Spark
South London

Another reason to march on cruel Tories

I CARE for elderly and disabled people in their homes in some of the poorer areas of Newcastle.

One faces eviction due to the bedroom tax. It forced her rent up £100 a month.

She’s on disability benefits, in debt and can’t afford to pay.

If she moves, she’d need to find a one-bedroom flat in sheltered accommodation. She’d like to move and thinks her house would be perfect for a family.

But the council hasn’t given her anywhere else. Her benefits can’t pay the rent, but she can’t get off benefits—with no way out.

Tory minister Iain Duncan Smith wants to attack disabled people even more with new plans to remove their benefits and force them into work.

That’s one reason to join the protests against the Tories in Manchester.

A care worker
Newcastle



ILLUSTRATION: TIM SANDERS

Just a thought...

How to stop the fascists?

ALAN GIBBONS made a great contribution to the demonstration against the fascist “White Man March” in Liverpool.

But I’d like to respond to his letter (29 August).

Anti Fascist Network (AFN) mobilised nationally in opposition to the small number of Nazis. The Unite Against Fascism (UAF) demonstration brought together 1,000 mainly local people—with a significant turnout from Merseyside’s trade union and labour movement.

With the Nazis now threatening to return on 12 September we need a mobilisation rooted in local trade unions, the labour movement and community groups.

This approach means that, while also backing appropriate militant action, the unions, the Socialist Workers Party SWP and others support UAF.

Dave Bridge
Liverpool

More reasons to fight WCA

NEWS THAT over 2,500 people died within two weeks of being found fit for work, shows that the Work Capability Assessment (WCA) should be abolished now.

It is designed to harass, bully and torment sick and disabled people. Getting rid of Atos who ran the assessments was a victory for grassroots campaigning.

We can do the same to the new company Maximus that the Tories have now appointed.

Duncan Brown
Glasgow

New Tory raid on budgets

THE TORIES are taking back £200 million from the public health budgets of local councils. This will lead to job losses and attack the means to tackle health issues, school nursing, drug and alcohol abuse and sexual health.

John Appleyard
West Yorkshire

A right good read by far

@socialistworker
Good read, better than the Morning Star by far!
@artboy_70
on Twitter

There’s nothing ‘complex’ about Sheku Bayoh’s death

AT LAST, Stephen House—head of Scotland’s police—is going.

He was author of stop-and-search for children in the west, and defender of violent, racist police in the east.

House resigned soon after a meeting between the Lord Advocate and the family of Sheku Bayoh, who died in police custody on 3 May in Kirkcaldy, Fife.

Sheku’s family has lost all confidence in the police review, which has focused on everything except what the police did to restrain him.

The Lord Advocate said it’s “complex” and before anyone can be prosecuted it has to be clear there has been a crime.

But what’s complex about a

12-stone man dying of asphyxiation after being pepper-sprayed and jumped on by police with a combined weight of around 45 stone?

And if it isn’t legal for police to kill, how can there not be a crime?

Against regulations, the nine officers involved were put in a room together for hours after the killing. They said nothing for a month.

The misinformation campaign started the day of the killing.

The morning he died, Colette, mother of Sheku’s baby son, was interrogated at the police station—before they told her he was dead!

Meanwhile, the police had her house keys—ironically, because it was a “crime scene”.

Police gave the family five different stories about the death, then last week added a sixth—they thought he was a terrorist. Is that because he was black?

Colette was to be at a meeting of the Justice for Sheku Bayoh campaign last week—but found her tyres had been slashed.

All the family wants is the truth, but there are legal costs for that.

Please contribute to the campaign. Come to the rally and march on Sunday 6 September at 2pm from the Town House in Kirkcaldy.

Lici Kopiej
Kirkcaldy, Fife

See Justice For Sheku Ahmed Tejan Bayoh on Facebook

Israel prisoner release exposes regime

SOCIALIST Worker readers may be aware that the Israeli Supreme Court recently ordered the release of hunger striking lawyer Mohammed Allan.

Whilst this is positive news for him and his family, we must be very clear about what this shows about the Israeli regime.

We must vigorously resist attempts from Israel’s apologists to argue that this shows their liberal democracy in action.

Mohammed Allan was detained in November



without charge or trial.

And he had to go on hunger strike for 65 days to secure his release, nearly dying in the process.

Perhaps most telling, the

Israeli Supreme Court only released him because he had irreversible brain damage due to his hunger strike.

Apparently “he no longer constituted a risk”.

This decision was in fact a cynical fudge. If Mohammed dies in hospital he won’t be counted as a death in custody and if his condition improves Israel can always re-detain him.

That’s “democracy” in Israel.

Adam Cochran
Essex

'Marxism insists we can have a society without oppression'

The fight against sexism has reopened important debates about where oppression comes from. Socialist Worker editor **Judith Orr** spoke about her new book *Marxism and Women's Liberation*

Why should people read another book on fighting for women's liberation?

It's very exciting to see the politicisation of a new generation who want to join the fight for women's liberation.

Women have made great gains, from jobs and education to what's expected of them in their personal lives and the ability to control their biology.

These are real material changes that have changed our lives—but some aspects of sexism have got worse recently.

This has generated a lot of anger and renewed interest in feminism, because it's really the first port of call if you're angry about sexism.

Today you've got new debates about privilege theory and intersectionality. Some theorists argue that men, straight or white people benefit from oppression or that we just need to look at how different oppressions interact.

Many activists now use the term "classism", but only look at class as just another form of oppression.

They're all grappling for an understanding of oppression, but ideas around class are getting a bigger hearing.

That's partly why I wrote the book, because we have much in common with feminists. But I wanted to look at these feminist ideas and make the case that

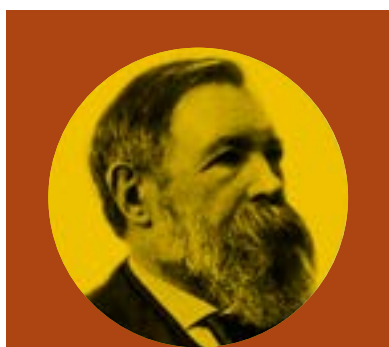
Marxism can offer an explanation of women's oppression and a way to fight it.



Judith Orr



Karl Marx



Frederick Engels

You say in the book that Marxism has always been a touchstone for ideas around women's liberation. Why do you think that is?

The fact that the revolutionary ideas of Karl Marx and Frederick Engels are still being argued about shows their strength.

Marxism has always been a touchstone, even for those who disagree with it, because it offers an all-encompassing view of the world.

It doesn't begin with people's personal experience of oppression, but it can help us understand it.

I think it's impossible to really understand the burden of oppression and how most women experience it without looking at class.

But how can Marxism, with its focus on the working class, explain oppression by itself? Doesn't Marxism need feminism? Marxism doesn't need something attached to it to make it care about women's oppression.

Marx and Engels weren't just writing about wages and profits. They were looking at those issues to understand a society that flows from those class divisions.

Marxism explains how inequality and discrimination distorts personal relationships. Those "common sense" ideas—about how men and women should behave—flow from the material reality of how women are treated.

Marx and Engels argued in the 19th century that the family was crucial to understanding women's oppression. But the family has changed since then. Is this still valid?

The family clearly looks different to 25 years ago, let alone 100 years ago, but it is still critical and predominantly the "women's sphere".

Its social function still means that ordinary people bear the burden of bringing up the next generation and looking after those who cannot go out and sell their labour power.

The Tories' assault on welfare has also laid bare what Marxists have argued about the family in a way that perhaps wasn't so visible before.

Benefit cuts for single parents, disabled people and others also mean the burden is pushed onto the family.

Even if young people are married or have children, many are now forced to live with parents and grandparents.

The family's social function means that it's important in shaping gender and gender expectations.



But things once seen as sexist—such as pole dancing—are now presented as being liberating. Can Marxism explain that?

The fight for sexual liberation was a key part of the Women's Liberation Movement in the 1970s and it made real gains. But capitalism, which commodifies every aspect of our lives, remained.

That means you get a situation where our sexual liberation is defined by how much of a commodity it is. When women's bodies are for sale, such as in pole or lap dancing, it's sold back to us as us being "in touch with our bodies".

But it pushes us into a narrow caricature of what sexual liberation is. It reflects an alienated world where an intrinsic part of our humanity—to be sexual beings—is turned into something to be bought and sold.

Women's bodies being commodified has always been an important part of women's oppression, but we're seeing it in a much sharper way. What makes this "new sexism" worse is that it's packaged as "liberating".

You write a lot about the family and ideas about gender. Why do you think having a material analysis is so important?

The dominant ideas about gender are very deterministic—men are "tough" and "don't cry" while women are "caring". Modern society also has a very binary view of gender about "men" and "women".

These are all socially constructed ideas about gender, which I totally reject. But some people who challenge deterministic views of gender still fall back into the same sort of trap.

For instance, some argue that if women ran the world there wouldn't have been a banking crash. But I don't think anyone in Greece thinks that austerity has been any more "caring" because Christine Lagarde runs the IMF.

There are also some radical feminists who reject transgender women because they aren't "born as women".

This flows from the idea that oppression is rooted in patriarchy, which sees something inherently oppressive in "maleness".

In the book I argue that it's possible to have a much more fluid view of gender and relationships than we have under capitalism.

Does having such an analysis of gender show that oppression hasn't always existed?

What's impressive about Engels is that his ideas are still being debated, even though some of his theory is based on flawed research.

My book looks at new research that archaeologists and anthropologists have unearthed only recently.

This confirms Engels' basic assertion—that women's oppression isn't an inevitable part of human society.

Women's oppression didn't exist for the majority of human society and only arose with the birth of class society.

This is a revolutionary assertion that opens our eyes to the possibility that we can have a different society without women's oppression.



How does the idea that women's oppression hasn't always existed shape the fight for liberation?

Marxism isn't just about having a theory to understand the burden of oppression—it gives women agency in the fight for our liberation.

Women as a group don't have a common experience or a common interest in fighting. Every time women have gone into struggle—whether for the vote, against low pay or for abortion rights—they've been strongest when fighting alongside working class men.

For Marxists class isn't just about how poor you are—if you're working class you are part of what Marx called the "gravedigger" of capitalism.

Exploitation is a rotten thing—you're being ripped off by your boss. But the boss also needs you to make a profit. That puts you in a powerful position and today there are more women workers than ever before.

No other social force has such

an interest in unity as the working class. That's why I look closely at some of the high points of struggle throughout history, in order to learn where our power lies.

This doesn't mean we idealise the working class and believe there are no sexist or other backward ideas.

They have to be challenged, but working class struggle is part of the process that challenges those ideas.

So I look at women during revolutions, because it gives a glimpse of what a different society could be like. For instance, sexual harassment was challenged as never before in the occupation of Tahrir Square during the Egyptian Revolution.

During mass struggles we see women at their most confident, their most assertive and combative. We glimpsed that during the big public sector strikes and on the mass TUC demonstrations against austerity with their big union contingents.

That's the opposite of what oppression does, when it atomises us and makes us feel downtrodden.

Yes, but many of the new generation of feminist activists aren't looking to the working class to change the world.

When the working class is openly fighting in a big way there's something to look to.

I joined the Socialist Workers Party (SWP) in 1984 during the Miners' Strike when workers were really challenging a Tory government. It can be harder to win the argument about the working class when there's less struggle.

But Occupy and the Arab Revolutions have boosted the idea that we can transform society.

That means Marxism gets a hearing and this book is about putting forward a Marxist analysis of how to fight for women's liberation. I want it to stimulate debate and discussion about how to take the struggle forward.

Marxism and Women's Liberation is published on 14 September by Bookmarks publications, £9.99 www.bookmarksbookshop.co.uk

'Marxism and Women's Liberation is a tour de force. For Marxists seeking to understand feminism, for feminists seeking to understand Marxism, and for anyone looking for a way to transcend the brutality of contemporary capitalism, this is essential reading'.

Hester Eisenstein
Professor of sociology
City University
of New York



WHAT WE STAND FOR

These are the core politics of the Socialist Workers Party.

INDEPENDENT WORKING CLASS ACTION

Under capitalism workers' labour creates all profit. A socialist society can only be constructed when the working class seizes control of the means of production and democratically plans how they are used.

REVOLUTION NOT REFORM

The present system cannot be patched up or reformed as the established Labour and trade union leaders say.

It has to be overthrown. Capitalism systematically degrades the natural world. Ending environmental crisis means creating a new society.

THERE IS NO PARLIAMENTARY ROAD

The structures of the present parliament, army, police and judiciary cannot be taken over and used by the working class. They grew up under capitalism and are designed to protect the ruling class against the workers.

The working class needs an entirely different kind of state—a workers' state based upon councils of workers' delegates and a workers' militia.

At most parliamentary activity can be used to make propaganda against the present system.

Only the mass action of the workers themselves can destroy the system.

INTERNATIONALISM

The struggle for socialism is part of a worldwide struggle. We campaign for solidarity with workers in other countries.

We oppose everything which turns workers from one country against those from other countries.

We oppose racism and imperialism. We oppose all immigration controls.

We support the right of black people and other oppressed groups to organise their own defence. We support all genuine national liberation movements.

The experience of Russia demonstrates that a socialist revolution cannot survive in isolation in one country.

In Russia the result was state capitalism, not socialism. In Eastern Europe and China a similar system was later established by Stalinist parties. We support the struggle of workers in these countries against both private and state capitalism.

We are for real social, economic and political equality of women. We are for an end to all forms of discrimination against lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender people.

We defend the right of believers to practise their religion without state interference.

THE REVOLUTIONARY PARTY

To achieve socialism the most militant sections of the working class have to be organised into a revolutionary socialist party.

Such a party can only be built by activity in the mass organisations of the working class.

We have to prove in practice to other workers that reformist leaders and reformist ideas are opposed to their own interests. We have to build a rank and file movement within the unions.

To join us, turn to page 16 or go to www.swp.org.uk or phone 020 7819 1170 for more information

{ SOCIALIST WORKER }
PUBLIC MEETINGS

ESSEX

Can Jeremy Corbyn reclaim the Labour Party?

Thu 24 Sep, 7.30pm,
Friends Meeting House,
Rainsford Rd,
Chelmsford, CM1 2QL

{ SOCIALIST WORKER }
BRANCH MEETINGS

Weekly meetings to discuss political issues and our local interventions. All welcome.

ABERDEEN

A rebel's guide to Trotsky

Thu 10 Sep, 6pm,
The Snug, Ma Cameron's,
6-8 Little Belmont St,
AB10 1JG

BARNLEY

75 years since his murder—Trotsky and Trotskyism today

Thu 10 Sep, 6.30pm,
YMCA, Blucher St,
S70 1AP

BIRMINGHAM: CITY CENTRE

Which way forward for Greece?

Wed 9 Sep, 7pm,
Birmingham LGBT Centre,
38/40 Holloway Circus,
B1 1EQ

BOLTON

How we beat anti-union laws in the past

Wed 9 Sep, 6.30pm,
Bolton Socialist Club,
16 Wood St (off
Bradshawgate), BL1 1DY

BRADFORD

How do we fight Islamophobia and the Prevent Strategy?

Wed 9 Sep, 7pm,
Equity Centre,
Perkin House,
82 Grattan Rd, BD1 2LU

BRIGHTON

Lessons from the boycott of apartheid South Africa

Wed 9 Sep, 7.30pm,
Friends Meeting House,
Ship St, BN1 1AF

BRISTOL: NORTH

China—is the miracle over?

Thu 10 Sep, 7.30pm,
5th Floor, The Canteen,
Hamilton House,
80 Stokes Croft, BS1 3QY

BRISTOL: SOUTH

Socialists and movements

Wed 9 Sep, 7.30pm,
YHA,
14 Narrow Quay,
BS1 4QA

CAMBRIDGE

From Syriza to Corbyn—can parliamentary parties stop austerity?

Thu 10 Sep, 7.30pm,
Shanghai Family Restaurant,
39 Burleigh St,
CB1 1DG

CARDIFF

Marxism and culture

Wed 16 Sep, 7.30pm,
Cathays Community Centre,
Cathays Terrace, CF24 4HX

CHELMSFORD

State and revolution

Thu 17 Sep, 7.30pm,
Friends Meeting House,
Rainsford Rd, CM1 2QL

CHESTERFIELD

Does the working class still have power in the 21st century?

Thu 10 Sep, 7.30pm,
Chesterfield Library (enter via
Cafe Browser), New Beetwell
St, S40 1QL

COLCHESTER

Mental health and capitalism

Tue 8 Sep, 7.30pm,
The Odd One Out,
28 Mersea Rd, CO2 7ET

COVENTRY

In or out? What should socialists say about the EU referendum?

Wed 9 Sep, 7.30pm,
West Indian Centre,
159 Spon St, CV1 3BB

SOCIALIST WORKER PUBLIC MEETINGS
JEREMY CORBYN, THE LABOUR PARTY
AND THE FIGHT AGAINST AUSTERITY

EXETER

Thu 17 Sep, 7pm,
New Horizon Cafe,
47 Longbrook St,
EX4 6AW

KIRKCALDY

Mon 7 Sep, 7.30pm,
Betty Nicol's pub,
297 High St,
KY1 1JL

SHEFFIELD:
CITY CENTRE

Thu 24 Sep, 7.30pm,
Central United Reformed
Church, 60 Norfolk St (near
the Crucible theatre),
S1 2JB

SOUTHAMPTON

Wed 16 Sep, 7.30pm,
The Strand pub,
7-9 Hanover Buildings,
SO14 1JX

DERBY

Imperialism today

Thu 10 Sep, 7pm,
West End Community Centre
(next to Britannia Mill),
Mackworth Rd, DE22 3BL

DUNDEE

The police and the state

Wed 9 Sep, 7.30pm,
Dundee Voluntary Action,
10 Constitution Rd, DD1 1LL

EDINBURGH

Trotskyism and Trotsky—a history of the International Socialist tradition

Wed 9 Sep, 7.30pm,
Friends Meeting House,
7 Victoria Terrace, EH1 2JL

GLASGOW: NORTH

State and revolution today

Wed 9 Sep, 7.30pm,
Posh Nosh Cafe, 86 Maryhill Rd
(near St George's Cross
Underground), G20 7QB

GLASGOW: SOUTH

How do we fight fascism in Europe today?

Thu 10 Sep, 7.30pm,
Govanhill Baths,
99 Calder St, G42 7RA

HUDDERSFIELD

Will technology create a post-capitalist world?

Wed 9 Sep, 6.30pm,
Brian Jackson House,
2 New North Parade (near
both train and bus stations),
HD1 5JP

LEEDS: CITY CENTRE

Religion and revolution

Thu 10 Sep, 7pm,
The Swarthmore Education
Centre, 2-7 Woodhouse Square,
LS3 1AD

LONDON: BRENT & HARROW

Carnival—a festival of resistance

Thu 10 Sep, 7.30pm,
The Pepperpot Centre,
1a Thorpe Close,
Ladbroke Grove (close to the
station), W10 5XL

LONDON: Brixton

The crisis in Calais—why socialists oppose border controls

Wed 9 Sep, 7pm,
Vida Walsh Centre,
2b Saltoun Rd (near Effra Rd,
facing Windrush Square),
SW2 1EP

LONDON: CAMDEN

Charlie Hebdo—racism, religion and free speech

Thu 10 Sep, 7pm,
Theatro Technis,
26 Crowndale Rd, NW1 1TT

LONDON: EALING

In or out? What should socialists say about the EU referendum?

Thu 10 Sep, 7.30pm,
West London Trade Union
Club, 33-35 High St,
Acton,
W3 6ND

LONDON: HACKNEY

A rebel's guide to Eleanor Marx

Thu 10 Sep, 7.30pm,
The Round Chapel,
2 Powerscroft Rd (corner
Lower Clapton Rd),
E5 0PU

LONDON: HORNSEY

AND WOOD GREEN

Will we need violence to get socialism?

Wed 9 Sep, 7.30pm,
West Indian Cultural Centre,
9 Clarendon Rd,
Haringey,
N8 0DD

LONDON: NEWHAM

Alexandra Kollontai and ideas for women's liberation

Wed 9 Sep, 7pm,
Stratford Advice Arcade,
107-109 The Grove (next to
Morrisons car park),
E15 1HP

LONDON: SOUTHWARK

Podemos, Spain and the social struggle against the bosses' austerity

Thu 10 Sep, 7pm,
Camberwell Leisure Centre
(Room 2),
Artichoke Place (off
Camberwell Church St),
SE5 8TS

LONDON: TOTTENHAM

Greece—where now for the fight against austerity?

Wed 9 Sep, 7.30pm,
Kitabevi Cafe,
410 Tottenham High Rd,
N17 9JB

LONDON: TOWER HAMLETS

The crisis in Calais—why socialists oppose border controls

Wed 9 Sep, 7pm,
Oxford House,
Derbyshire St (opp Bethnal
Green Rd Tesco),
E2 6HG

LONDON: WALTHAM FOREST

Why are there so few strikes?

Wed 9 Sep, 7.30pm,
Quaker Meeting House,
1a Jewel Rd (off Hoe St),
E17 4QU

MANCHESTER: CHORLTON

The class war—1910-1939

Wed 9 Sep, 7pm,
Meeting room,
Chorlton Central Church,
Barlow Moor Rd, M21 8BF

MANCHESTER: CITY CENTRE

Class in the 21st century

Thu 10 Sep, 7pm,
Friends Meeting House,
6 Mount St, M2 5NS

MEDWAY

75 years since his murder—Trotsky and Trotskyism today

Thu 10 Sep, 7.30pm,
Conference room,
The Nucleus Arts Centre,
272 High St,
Chatham,
ME4 4BP

NEWCASTLE

The crisis in Calais—why socialists oppose border controls

Thu 10 Sep, 7pm,
Broadacre House,
Market St,
NE1 6HQ

NORWICH

Capitalism in Crisis—was Marx right?

Thu 10 Sep, 7.30pm,
Vauxhall Centre,
Johnson Place,
NR2 2SA

NOTTINGHAM

Trade unions—the bureaucracy and the rank and file

Wed 9 Sep, 7.30pm,
International Community
Centre, 61b Mansfield Rd,
NG1 3FN

OXFORD

The crisis in Calais—why socialists oppose border controls

Wed 9 Sep, 7.30pm,
Restore, Manzil Way (off
Cowley Rd), OX4 1YH

PORTSMOUTH

Will the Paris summit bring emissions down?

Wed 9 Sep, 7.30pm,
Somerstown Central,
Rivers St, PO5 4EY

ROTHERHAM

In or out? What should socialists say about the EU referendum?

Wed 9 Sep, 7pm,
Talbot Lane Methodist Church
Centre,
Moorgate St, S60 2EY

SWANSEA

How we beat anti-union laws in the past

Thu 10 Sep, 7.30pm,
Brynmill Community Centre,
St Albans Rd, SA2 0BP

WIGAN

Will the TUC ever fight?

Wed 9 Sep, 7pm,
Little Fifteen pub,
17-19 Wallgate (opposite
Wigan Post Office), WN1 1LD

YORK

Will technology create a post-capitalist world?

Wed 9 Sep, 7.30pm,
Sea Horse Hotel,
4 Fawcett St, YO10 4AH

{ MOVEMENT EVENTS }

DORCHESTER

The EU—yes or no?

Debate with Alan Thornett
(Socialist Resistance) and
Richard Bradbury (Socialist
Workers Party).

Sat 5 Sep, 1pm,
Colliton Club (opposite County
Hall), Colliton Park,
DT1 1XJ.

Organised by Dorset Socialists

NATIONAL

We're hungry for justice—Fast Food Rights national organising day

Wed 16 Sep, 10am-6pm,
TUC, Great Russell St (near
Tottenham Court Road Tube),
London WC1B 3LS.

More information
fastfoodrights.wordpress.com

Stop the War Coalition Annual Conference 2015

Sat 19 Sep, 10am-5pm,
University of London Union,
Malet St,
London, WC1E 7HY.
Registration—Standard £10,
Concession £5.

Full details stopwar.org.uk

NORFOLK

Burston Strike School rally—the longest strike in history

Sun 6 Sep, 11am-3.45pm,
Church Green,
Burston (near Diss),
IP22 5TP.

burstonstrikeschool.wordpress.com

SCOTLAND

Unite the Resistance Scotland forum

Sat 12 Sep, 12 noon to 5pm,
Mercure Glasgow City Hotel,
201 Ingram St,
Glasgow,
G1 1DQ.

£5/£2. Advance tickets from
Facebook Defend our Unions
- Say OXI (No) to Austerity

CONTACT
THE SWP

Phone 020 7819 1172
Email
enquires@swp.org.uk
Post PO Box 42184,
London SW8 2WD

BOOKMARKS the socialist bookshop

1 Bloomsbury Street, London WC1B 3QE ● 020 7637 1848 ● bookmarksbookshop.co.uk



Looking at pre-history helps us understand oppression

The BBC's new series *The Ascent of Woman* popularises the idea that women's oppression hasn't always existed—but it can't explain why, writes **Sarah Bates**

DR AMANDA Foreman's new BBC series chronicles the history of women from pre-class society to the present day.

The series begins with the bold claim that in the West "There has never been a better time to be born a woman."

"Yet in many parts of the world" it's a different story.

This could fall into the trap that women "have it all" because a few have made it to top ruling class jobs.

Yet Foreman's starting point is basically correct. Women's oppression has existed for a long time. But to understand it we need to look at how society is organised, rather than biology.

Foreman takes us on a journey through the archaeological finds of the Turkish village Catalhoyuk.

To her surprise, there are no signs of a nuclear family or different social classes at all.

Early humans organised society along egalitarian lines unrecognizable from today.

Mass

It's brilliant that someone is bringing the radical assertion that oppression hasn't always existed to a mass audience.

However, *The Ascent of Woman's* general framework is problematic. For Forman, the position of women depends on how strong patriarchy and oppressive ideas are within societies.

But women's oppression flows from class society—which precisely did not exist in Catalhoyuk.

Later episodes appear to cover the Russian Revolution of 1917, when the mass of working class women and men were united in fighting for liberation.

It will be interesting to see how Forman can rely on patriarchy to explain women's position during that time.

The programme also focuses on the "achievements" of individual woman, such as emperors and generals. Yet she does next to nothing to analyse the lives of the mass of ordinary women.

While there's a lot to disagree with, it does show that ideas around gender have radically changed throughout history.

The Ascent of Woman is a noble attempt at putting women's lives back in the history pages. It presents women as the subjects that shape the societies they live in.

The Ascent of Woman
Dr Amanda Foreman
BBC Two
9pm, Sunday



ALEXANDRA KOLLONTAI (portrait) was a leading figure in the Russian Revolution

PICTURE: BBC/SILVER RIVER

Street art

TELEVISION

A BRIEF HISTORY OF GRAFFITI

BBC Four
Available on BBC iPlayer
bbc.co.uk/iplayer

AS PART of the BBC's pop art season, art historian Richard Clay looks at how humans have always needed to make a mark.

The programme's focus is on the marks made by ordinary people, who are denied other means to express themselves.

He looks at the beauty of street art throughout history—the range is impressive.

We see the messages Russian soldiers scrawled in the Reichstag building in Berlin in 1945. Then we're back in the Stone Age looking at cave paintings.

Clay also explores why graffiti is presented as a form of vandalism and rejected by the authorities.

He explains that this dates back to the French revolution of 1789 and the radical political ideas expressed through graffiti and street art back then.

Hamza Sharif



Graffiti at Palais De Tokyo, Paris

BBC/KABOOM FILM & TV/CHARLES FURNEAUX

APPEAL

**WAR RESISTERS
INTERNATIONAL
NEWSLETTER**
wri-irg.org

Help the War Resisters International launch their new book on conscientious objection.

They're raising money through crowdfunding. Go to tinyurl.com/ns6b3ph to donate.

TELEVISION

RESISTANCE

Channel 4
9pm, Wednesdays
Catch up on 4oD
channel4.com

CHANNEL 4'S new drama is based on events that took place in France during the Second World War.

It tells the story of teenager Lili and a group who band together to fight

Pauline Burlet as Lili

the Nazi occupation.

In the first episode, they're tasked with producing and distributing an illegal newspaper called *Resistance*.

TOP 5 BOOKS

Bestsellers at Bookmarks, the socialist Bookshop

- 1 **Sexism and the System: A Rebel's Guide to Women's Liberation**
Judith Orr
- 2 **Them and Us: Fighting the class war 1910-1939**
John Newsinger
- 3 **Immigration: The Myths Spread to Divide Us**
Charlie Kimber
- 4 **This Changes Everything: Capitalism vs. the Climate**
Naomi Klein
- 5 **War and Revolution in Catalonia, 1936-1939**
Pelai Pages i Blanch and Patrick Gallagher

Phone 020 7637 1848
bookmarksbookshop.co.uk
Visit the shop at
1 Bloomsbury Street,
London WC1B 3QE

Jeremy Corbyn's talk of nationalisation has outraged the press. He has suggested that a Labour government he heads would take major utilities back into public ownership.

This includes the railways, the big six energy companies and the national grid.

Despite the outrage his initial demands were actually quite moderate. He said renationalisation would "cost" because of the need to buy shares and bonds. In other words, the fat cats who have grabbed public services would be compensated when they lost control.

More radical was the proposal from Corbyn's campaign manager John McDonnell MP.

He said that if Tory chancellor George Osborne sells any more national assets "a future Corbyn-led Labour government will reserve the right to bring them back into public ownership with either no compensation or with any undervaluation deducted from any compensation for renationalisation".

It would take a serious battle to force the rich to relinquish any of their wealth (see right). But McDonnell is absolutely right. We should collectively own and control all these key services. The bosses, who have made billions, shouldn't get another penny.

Militant

One recent study showed that every man, woman and child in Britain is more than £3,400 in debt—without knowing it and without borrowing a single penny—thanks to the Private Finance Initiative (PFI) deals used to pay for infrastructure such as schools and hospitals.

Banks and businesses are "owed" £222 billion. The interest payments drain money from the NHS. PFI needs to go—without paying off the privatisers who have already made vast profits.

We support Corbyn and McDonnell when they call for renationalisation. It's time to be bold and implement it—and it would be popular.

In 2013 a YouGov survey found 84 percent of people wanted the NHS in public hands, 68 percent for energy companies, 67 percent Royal Mail and 66 percent rail.

Socialists back nationalisation because it counters the idea that the market should be left to its own devices.

Nationalised firms tend to have better working conditions, although this is also true in private firms with a militant workforce.

But nationalisation is not itself a socialist act that benefits workers and consumers. That's why revolutionaries always



BRITISH GAS bosses and friend march to the stock exchange on 8 December 1986 for its first shares trading following privatisation
PICTURE: JOHN STURROCK

LET'S TAKE BACK OUR ASSETS

After Labour leadership contender Jeremy Corbyn called for nationalisation, Ken Olende looks at what this would mean for workers—and how to make it a reality

stress nationalisation with democratic social control. Workers and the people who use services must be in charge.

The first nationalisation in Britain was carried out by a Liberal government with the Telegraph Act of 1868.

It was done to make it more efficient—and the owners were paid three times what it was worth.

The same is true of the most recent batch of bank takeovers. Clement Atlee's Labour



Nationalisation raises the idea of workers having a say in production

government elected in 1945 nationalised about 20 percent of the economy.

Much of the ruling class agreed that this was necessary to restructure the economy. They feared the alternative might be the kind of uprising they saw at the end of the First World War.

The Beveridge report that laid the basis for the NHS and much of the welfare state was compiled by a Liberal, not a socialist. The first major

nationalisation was the Bank of England, with full compensation and the reappointment of the existing director. A similar pattern was repeated as railways and other services came under public ownership.

Harold Wilson's government in the 1960s nationalised steel. But in general he preferred "state direction" that left big firms in private hands.

Most bosses were grudgingly happy with the situation. At the time they could believe that everyone could get richer.

When crisis hit in the 1970s they were determined that the poorest should pay for it. And to do that they wanted to demand that workers should have no say in how society was run.

Margaret Thatcher and US president Ronald Reagan pushed the idea that economic problems were caused when people tried to buck the market and the unending search for profit. They said that only the private sector ran utilities efficiently.

New Labour accepted this argument.

They had conveniently forgotten that the untrammelled hunt for profits drove industries into the ground.

The Tories claim that nationalisation makes industries unproductive. But the industries that are nationalised first are almost always those that are in crisis.

Nationalisation raises at least the idea that ordinary people could have some say in production.

Hierarchies

Some nationalisations gave trade unions a limited number of positions on the board running firms. But none get rid of workplace hierarchies—even at the peak of nationalisation in 1946.

In the end what matters is who is in control of the workplace. Stafford Cripps, a Labour minister during the 1930s, said that workers didn't have enough "managerial" experience to run things. He told the Times newspaper, "I think it would be almost impossible to have worker-controlled industry in Britain."

The experience of the Russian Revolution suggested a completely different way of looking at how work should be organised.

The radical journalist John Reed wrote in 1918, "There was a committee meeting at one of the factories, where a workman arose and said, 'Comrades, why do we worry?'

"The question of technical experts is not a difficult one. Remember, the boss wasn't a technical expert.

"All he did was to own. When he wanted technical help, he hired men to do it for him. Well, now we are the boss. Let's hire engineers, bookkeepers and so forth—to work for us."

Tragically the revolution was defeated. But it showed a real alternative to private ownership is possible.

Margaret Thatcher



PROTESTING OVER rail safety in London in October 1999

PICTURE: STEVE EASON

Workers' organisation can wring wealth from the bosses

THE RULING class would resist any attempt to take back major public assets. It would threaten their wealth and pose an ideological challenge to their position.

That's why the right wing media, owned by the rich, is kicking up such a stink about Corbyn.

But the rich can do much more than wage nasty media campaigns if they feel under real threat.

The super-rich—bosses, bankers and industrialists—hold real power in our society. Bosses constantly threaten to use their economic muscle to keep politicians in line.

If MPs discuss raising the minimum wage, for example, bosses talk of how many jobs this will cost.

They say they may be "forced" to relocate their businesses to countries where they can exploit workers more freely.

Banks threaten to downgrade the credit ratings of countries that fail to comply with neoliberalism.

This hits the ability of states to borrow money, potentially causing chaos.

We are seeing this process unfolding before our eyes in Greece.

But the blackmail isn't new.

In Britain, the Labour government elected in 1974 threatened a "fundamental and irreversible shift in the balance of power and wealth".

Bosses engineered a run on the pound and the government retreated.

If the rich deem it necessary, they will use force to protect their position.

Any measures that challenge the wealth and power of the bosses will need organised workers' action to drive them through.

Workers have a unique power because they produce the bosses' wealth.

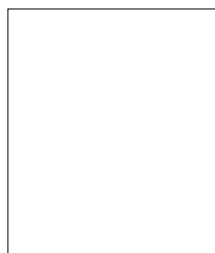
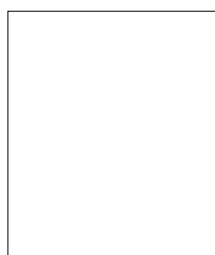
They have the strength and the numbers to stop bosses' attacks—and also to bring about revolutionary change.

Venezuela's ruling class organised to try and overthrow left wing leader Hugo Chavez in 2002.

But ordinary people mobilised to stop the bosses' coup.

Even if reforms did succeed in taking some wealth from the rich, they will always try and take it back in the future.

A lasting shift in the balance of power will mean fighting for a new society altogether to get rid of them for good.



Former leader of Venezuela Hugo Chavez (top) and Tim Martin, the boss of Wetherspoons who says wage rises could lead to job cuts (above)

READ MORE

● **The Labour Party—a Marxist History**
by Tony Cliff and Donny Gluckstein, £5

● **Ten Days That Shook The World**
by John Reed
£9.99

● **The Ragged Trousered Philanthropists**
by Robert Tressell
£2.99

Available at Bookmarks, the socialist bookshop.
Phone 020 7637 1848
or go to
bookmarksbookshop.co.uk



ANALYSIS

What's the left alternative to Labour and the SNP?

The launch of Rise, a new left project in Scotland, is positive—but it's not the end of the debate, writes Raymie Kiernan

VOTERS HAVE another option for the Scottish elections next year after a new left organisation launched last Saturday at a 500-strong conference in Glasgow.

It's unclear if it is a movement, an alliance or a party. But Rise—Respect, Independence, Socialism, Environmentalism—is a positive development.

The strength of the launch was in attracting people who found their voice during last year's independence referendum and are new to politics.

They want to discuss what sort of left we need, and they can bring new ideas and energy to the project.

Unfortunately the Scottish left remains divided. There is no united electoral challenge to the Scottish National Party (SNP) and the Labour Party.

Contest

Tommy Sheridan, who was prominent in the Yes campaign, has already declared that Solidarity (which he heads) will contest the 2016 elections itself. Rise won't work with him.

Socialist Worker supporters contested the general election as part of the Trade Unionist and Socialist Coalition (TUSC) and remain part of TUSC. But we have always sought broader alliances.

If Rise is to fulfil its ambition of becoming the "main opposition to the SNP", its attitude to the rest of the left will be key to determining its success.

Socialist Worker thinks Rise should be open to all on the left. It will be a disaster if left groups compete for the same votes in 2016.

For now the SNP is dominant in opinion polls. Despite the mismatch between its "anti-austerity" image and a record of cuts the party is likely to take the vast



THE LAUNCH of Rise last Saturday

BACK STORY

● Rise—Respect, Independence, Socialism, Environmentalism—was launched last weekend in Glasgow

● Its main supporters were part of the Yes campaign in the Scottish referendum

● Activists have been boosted by recent victories for the Dundee NHS porters and the Glasgow homelessness caseworkers

● Recent opinion polls have indicated the SNP is still running at record levels of support

majority of votes in the first past the post constituency seats in 2016.

Scottish Labour has elected an uninspiring new leader in Kezia Dugdale. Corbynmania hasn't passed it by, but it looks set to suffer another crushing defeat next May.

The Lib Dems' irrelevance increases and the Tories remain as unpopular as ever.

But there won't be a repeat of the rout last May when the SNP won 46 of Scotland's 49 MPs.

It will be a disaster if left groups compete for the same votes

Next May Labour, the Tories, the Lib Dems—and the Greens—will get regional seats (elected by proportional representation) even if the SNP hovers up most constituency seats (elected by first past the post).

The electoral battle that most of the left focuses on is winning votes on the regional lists.

The additional member system in the Scottish parliament is designed so the more constituency seats a party wins the harder it is to gain regional seats.

An argument among independence supporters is whether giving the SNP your second vote is or isn't a wasted vote.

Unified

The left is arguing to give second votes to pro independence, anti-austerity parties. But this could be ineffective without a single unified left option to vote for.

Elections matter, but it is crucial to focus on struggle, including fighting an SNP government and councils that have been only too willing to pass on Tory spending cuts.

Any new left project must also think seriously about working with supporters of Jeremy Corbyn in the fight against austerity.

Dismissing them because they might not support independence won't help build a united movement that can stop cuts. Yes we want more anti-cuts MSPs and more socialists in parliament.

But we need a mass movement rooted in struggle, not in parliament.

Made in China—how a debt crisis spread

China's rulers' attempts to maintain growth amid global economic crisis has precipitated yet another crisis under a mountain of debt and empty buildings, argues **Sadie Robinson**

THE GROWING crisis in China's economy could have serious consequences for global capitalism. For the last decade and a half China has accounted for almost a third of world economic growth.

Between 1979 and 2014 the wealth created each year in China, its GDP, rose on average by 10 percent a year. Its economy doubled in size every eight years.

Sections of the global ruling class hoped China could get the world economy out of the crisis that has plagued it since 2008. But the nature of China's growth has led to its current crisis.

The growth is largely built on construction and manufacturing. China imports complex parts from other countries to produce goods for export.

By 2005 China produced 50 percent of the world's cameras, 30 percent of air conditioners and televisions, and 25 percent of washing machines.

By 2010 it became the world's largest manufacturer.

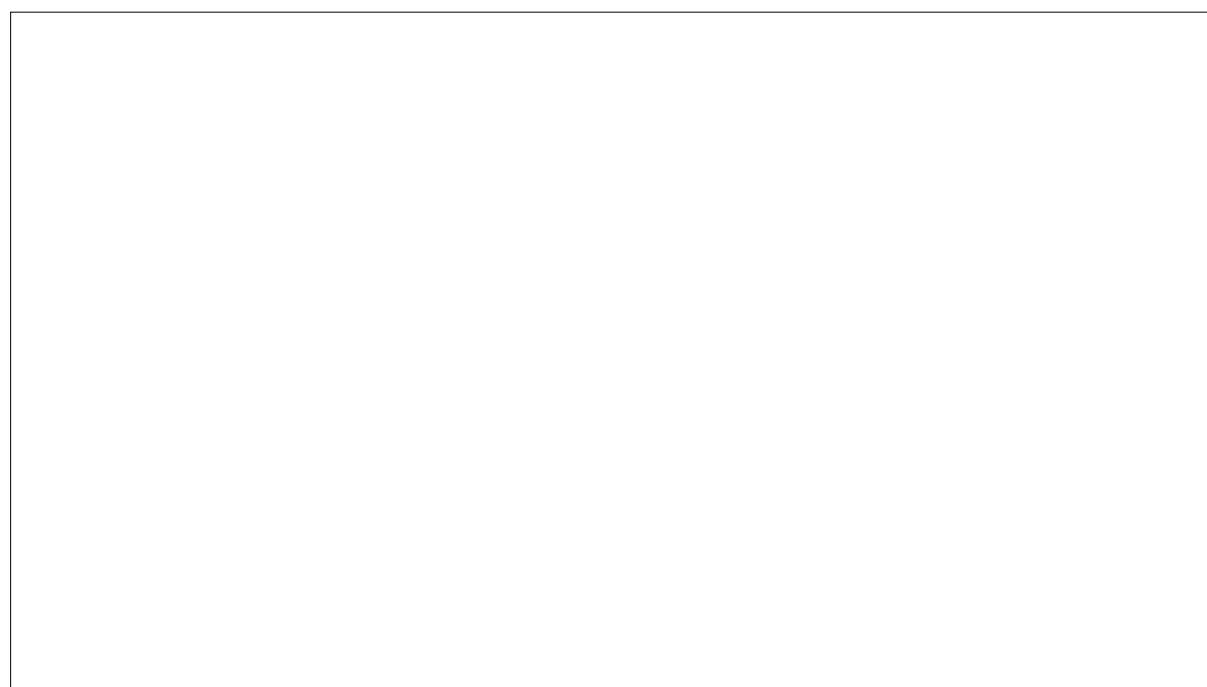
But there are only so many cameras, televisions and washing machines that people can buy. And crisis elsewhere can cut workers' spending power and push demand for goods down.

For instance, the impact of the 2008 crisis saw China's imports and exports decline and up to 30 million workers lose their jobs.

Like many others, China's government threw money at the problem. It announced a stimulus programme and relaxed laws to encourage banks to lend money.

But by 2011, 20 percent of the loans were written off.

A construction boom helped shield



CHINA HALF-BUILT: many construction projects have faltered under piles of debt

China from the worst of the crisis—for a time. But this was built on credit.

The central government instructed local governments to boost spending by borrowing.

Cities, towns and villages exploited a loophole in the law that forbids local government to get into debt by creating arms-length companies to borrow cash. These are controlled by local governments.

While official figures cannot be wholly relied on they show that local government debt rose by 80 percent in

the two years up to mid-2013.

Local governments increasingly bought their own land in an attempt to stop prices sliding—getting into even more debt as a result. Some have defaulted on debt repayments.

Cities in China have been left covered in half-built or half-empty offices and housing blocks.

The BBC once gushed that south eastern city Wenzhou was “helping to transform the national and world economies”.

In September 2011 around 90

factory owners fled Wenzhou after defaulting on debts worth millions.

The Financial Times newspaper highlighted “financial vulnerabilities” in local governments across China in January this year.

It worried whether China's government could prop up growth enough to “stave off social unrest”.

More online
For more on China, go to socialistworker.co.uk/public/searchByTag/51

All part of bigger problems

CHINA'S integration into the world economy helped its growth. It also made China vulnerable to crises outside its borders—and vice versa.

So the fall in demand for raw materials in China has hit the countries that supply it.

The World Bank warned in January that “slowdown in China could turn into a disorderly unwinding of financial vulnerabilities with considerable implications for the global economy”.

Supporters of neoliberalism say China faces crisis because it hasn't made enough “reforms”.

Problems

As one paper for the US Congressional Research Service put it in June, “Many of China's economic problems stem from its incomplete transition to a free market economy.”

In reality the problems in China are part of a bigger crisis in global capitalism.

World trade saw its biggest contraction since 2009 in the first half of this year, according to economists at the World Trade Monitor.

The World Trade Organisation blamed the economic slowdown on problems in Europe as well as China.

It said an “adjustment” in the global economy meant a slowdown could be likely to go on for some time.

‘Workers’ unrest will continue into the future’

THERE HAS been a record number of strikes and worker protests this year, according to the China Labour Bulletin (CLB).

The Chinese government refers to strikes, protests and riots as “incidents”.

The CLB recorded 650 incidents in the first quarter of this year—over three times more than the first quarter of 2014.

Many took place in the run-up to the Chinese New Year on 19 February. Over

half involved workers in the construction industry.

Workers protested at government buildings, staged sit-ins in their workplaces and blocked roads. The action was driven “overwhelmingly” by the non-payment of wages.

Protests have also taken place in smaller



1,300 incidents since Feb 2015
DATA: [MAPS.CLB.ORG.HK/STRIKES/EN](http://maps.clb.org.hk/strikes/en)

places and areas less known for their militancy.

The CLB said the city of Xiangyang in Hubei saw seven construction-related incidents over a five-day period. One witness said the number of migrant workers blocking roads demanding their wages was “in the thousands”.

One reason for higher figures is more workers are able to post news of their struggles online.

Geoffrey Crothall from

CLB said this could also encourage other workers to take action too.

It's important not to exaggerate the scale of resistance in China, but it is there. Fury at growing inequality and corruption, along with rapid changes in the way people live, has created a volatile situation.

The CLB recorded 67 strikes and worker protests in the first 12 days of July. It said, “Worker unrest will continue to be the norm for the near future at least.”

MANCHESTER SUNDAY 4 OCTOBER 2015

NATIONAL RALLY AND MARCH
ON THE **CONSERVATIVE CONFERENCE**

MANCHESTER SUNDAY 4 OCTOBER 2015

12.00 *NOON*
Assemble Oxford Road from All Saints Park southwards

1.00 *PM*
Opening rally

1.30 *PM*
March through the city on a route that circles the Conference Centre, ending at Deansgate/Whitworth Street for coach pick-ups and dispersal

A FESTIVAL OF RESISTANCE

The People's Assembly and friends from supporting organisations and institutions will host a series of events throughout the week. Topics will include—trade unions, welfare, racism, housing, Islamophobia, war, education, climate, media, TTIP, transport, NHS, economy, Scotland and Europe. These meetings will run alongside a series of direct actions and protests all over Manchester and around the Tory party conference. Evenings will see a full spectrum of entertainment including huge gigs featuring international artists, “Laugh them out of town” comedy nights, spoken word and other performances.

THEPEOPLESASSEMBLY.ORG.UK

 **THE PEOPLE'S ASSEMBLY**

www.tuc.org.uk/NoToAusterity @4OctDemo #No2Austerity

MANCHESTER SUNDAY 4 OCTOBER 2015

JOIN THE SOCIALIST WORKERS PARTY

☐ **Yes, I'd like to be a member**
☐ **Please send me some information**

Name

Address

Postcode

Phone

Email

Return to SWP membership department, PO Box 42184, London SW8 2WD. **Phone** 020 7819 1172
Email membership@swp.org.uk



Subscribe to Socialist Worker

Have Socialist Worker delivered with your post every week for a direct debit of £5 a month

I want to subscribe to Socialist Worker with a monthly direct debit of £5

Name

Address.....

Postcode

E-mail

Phone

I would like ____ extra papers to sell (this will not be deducted from my bank account)

For official use only—this is not part of the instructions to your bank/building society

Sherborne Publications, PO Box 42184, London SW8 2WD

Instruction to your bank or building society to pay by direct debit

Originator identification no. 9 7 3 3 5 5

Our reference no.

1. Name and full postal address of your bank or building society

To the manager:

Bank/building society

Address

Postcode

2. Name(s) of account holder(s)

3. Branch sort code / /

4. Bank/building society account no.

5. Instruction to your bank or building society

Please pay Sherborne Publications direct debits from the account detailed on this instruction subject to the safeguards assured by the direct debit guarantee. I understand that this instruction may remain with Sherborne Publications and, if so, details will be passed electronically to my bank or building society.

Signature(s)

Date

Banks and building societies may not accept Direct Debit instructions from some types of account

Direct debit guarantee

■ This Guarantee is offered by all banks and building societies that accept instructions to pay Direct Debits.

■ If there are any changes to the amount, date or frequency of your Direct Debit Sherborne Publications will notify you ten working days in advance of your account being debited or as otherwise agreed. If you request Sherborne Publications to collect a payment, confirmation of the amount and date will be given to you at the time of the request.

■ If an error is made in the payment of your Direct Debit by Sherborne Publications or your bank or building society you are entitled to a full and immediate refund of the amount paid from your bank or building society.

■ If you receive a refund you are not entitled to, you must pay it back when Sherborne Publications asks you to.

■ You can cancel a Direct Debit at any time by simply contacting your bank or building society. Written confirmation may be required. Please also notify us.

Socialist Worker Subscriptions

Post PO Box 42184, London SW8 2WD
Phone 020 7819 1171
Web www.socialistworker.co.uk

IN BRIEF

Workers try to turn off bosses' plans

NEARLY 500 workers in the Unite union at EDF Energy in London, southern and western England were set to strike on Wednesday of this week to defend their pay and conditions.

Bosses' plans would see staff work longer hours and have their agreements torn up. Some could lose up to £6,000 a year. Unite suspended two planned strikes in August for talks that broke down.

Airport security on alert for better pay

GMB UNION members who work as security scanner operators at Stansted Airport, London, struck on Monday of this week.

Privateer Mitie only offered workers a 1.5 percent pay deal despite a 13.5 percent rise in profits. Workers previously struck last Sunday.

LGSM leads lively bloc in Manchester

THOUSANDS OF people joined the annual Pride march in Manchester last Saturday. Lesbians and Gays Support the Miners (LGSM) led a lively political bloc of trade unionists and campaigners.

Many activists attended a screening and Q&A of the Pride film at the LGBT Foundation.

Protest against Chile 'torture ship'

AROUND 50 people protested last Saturday at La Esmeralda, a ship docked in London's Canary Wharf.

The ship was used in the 1970s as a floating detention and torture centre by Chilean dictator Augusto Pinochet's regime.

Stoke housing workers' pay strike

HOUSING WORKERS at Aspire Housing in Stoke-on-Trent struck on Tuesday of this week against attacks on pay, terms and conditions.

The workers' GMB union said that some workers face losing up to £5,000 a year and working longer hours.

Workers previously struck in July.

Essex fire staff keep fighting cuts

FIREFIGHTERS AND fire control staff in Essex were set to strike on Tuesday and Wednesday of this week.

The FBU union members are fighting bosses' attacks on pay, fire service cuts and attempts to impose "unworkable" shift patterns.

It is part of a programme of rolling action, which saw them strike on Monday of last week

●Send solidarity messages to EssexFBU@live.co.uk

CIVIL SERVICE WORKERS



NATIONAL MUSEUM of Scotland strikers and supporters

PICTURE: DONNY GLUCKSTEIN

DVLA

Workers drive home opposition to pay cut

by ANNETTE MACKIN

A THREE-DAY strike by 650 workers at a Driver and Vehicle Licensing Agency (DVLA) contact centre in Swansea, South Wales, caused disruption both sides of the bank holiday weekend.

The PCS union members are fighting pay cuts to Saturday working. Workers walked out on Friday and Saturday of last week, and on Tuesday of this week.

Kirsty Anderson, PCS rep at the contact centre said that the action "has been really well supported".

"We think this will have a significant impact on our cause and we hope it will encourage management to make a reasonable offer now."

DVLA bosses were forced to close down the medical queries phone service.

This is a free service helping disabled and sick members of the public.

Scabs

But they tried to keep open the commercial service by using managers and scabs.

The DVLA announced plans not to pay an allowance for Saturday working to contact-centre staff recruited since

the start of 2015. And they propose a 50 percent cut for staff who do receive it from 1 September.

Keith Johnstone, PCS Department for Transport group secretary, said, "There seems to be the idea that south Wales is a low wage economy and DVLA can get away with exploiting its staff there."

"This dispute is vitally important to everyone in the agency."

"If the employer is able to cut the pay of our members in the contact centre then it will inevitably seek to reduce the terms and conditions for the rest of DVLA staff."

Bosses are out of touch

MEMBERS OF the PCS union at museums in Scotland and Wales are fighting separate attacks on weekend pay.

Workers at all National Museum of Wales sites struck last Saturday.

The action was part of rolling strikes that ended on Monday of this week.

Bosses want to scrap premium payments for weekend working.

Meanwhile workers at

the National Museum of Scotland are demanding weekend working allowances be paid to all staff.

They completed a seven-day strike last Sunday.

Striker Robert Burns told Socialist Worker, "Management want a race to the bottom because they have a total lack of connection with how people have to live today." Thanks to Donny Gluckstein

DISTRIBUTION WORKERS

Indesit striker: 'We are a force to be reckoned with'

by DAVE GIBSON and TONY HARPER

OVER 200 drivers, drivers' mates and warehouse workers employed at 12 Indesit depots struck for two days last week. Indesit manufactures and distributes domestic appliances.

Workers also struck on Tuesday of this week and have been working to rule, which has played havoc with delivery schedules.

The Unite union members demand a substantial pay rise after years of below-inflation rises.

An offer of 1.5 percent has been overwhelmingly rejected. Indesit bosses' pay has increased by 22 percent.

Up to 20 strikers joined the picket at the Barnsley depot. At Northamptonshire there were 40 pickets.



Barnsley strikers picket

A Barnsley striker told Socialist Worker, "This has been a long time coming. We've been fobbed off for years. By striking together nationally we have shown we are a force to be reckoned with."

A picket at the Manchester depot said, "1.5 percent is effectively a pay cut. Enough is enough, it's time to make a stand."

HEALTH SERVICE

Privatisation scandal of dirty wards

by RICHARD BUCKWELL

PROTESTERS from Nottingham Keep Our NHS Public protested at a board meeting of Nottingham University Hospitals (NUH) on Thursday of last week.

They are angry at recent revelations that standards of cleanliness at Queen's Medical Centre and City Hospital have fallen dramatically during the last year.

In 2014 NUH awarded a £200 million Estates and Facilities services contract, which includes cleaning, to private building company Carillion.

Infections

Since then there has been a sharp rise in infections contracted by patients and staff.

Some years ago NUH contracted catering and cleaning out to private companies whose performance was so bad that the contracts were cancelled and brought back in-house.

Now they have made the same mistake again. Carillion's main business is road building and rail track maintenance.

Handing it this contract makes about as much sense as contracting NUH to widen a motorway or build a high-speed railway.

But this is all part of the Tories' programme to privatise the NHS, to provide opportunities for their business friends to make enormous profits from our public services.

CONSTRUCTION WORKERS

'Carillion exploit unskilled'

CONSTRUCTION workers are set to protest at the Royal Liverpool Hospital site on Friday of this week. Workers on the Carillion-run site are employed outside the national agreement.

One Liverpool worker reports, "They are mostly self employed individuals who can be finished at the drop of a hat."

■HOSPITAL PORTERS at the John Radcliffe hospital in Oxford have voted to accept a new pay deal.

The Unison union members voted 57 percent to accept the new offer from outsourcer Carillion.

Bosses tried to push through attacks that would have slashed up to £54 a week from some porters' wages and forced them to work new shift patterns.

The union said that the porters will not be financially worse off.

ANTI-RACISM

Attack on Mushin Ahmed was 'a hate crime' says cop

POLICE ARE treating an attack on Mushin Ahmed in Rotherham, South Yorkshire, as a hate crime.

Mushin was on his way to morning prayers at his mosque when he was attacked on 10 August. He died 11 days later.

Detective chief inspector Zaf Ali said the police "are treating this as a hate crime".

Mushin Ahmed's family said in a statement, "The family is heartbroken. Thank you to everyone for your prayers, support and offers of help. The expressions of grief and sadness as well as the flowers are greatly appreciated."

Two men, Damien Hunt and Kieran John Rice, have been charged in connection with the assault. Two other men have been arrested and bailed.

Campaigners in the town have warned that repeated protests by far right groups would create a more racist climate. The fascist Britain First group planned to protest in the town this Saturday.

●Join the Unite Against Fascism counter protest—Saturday 5 September, 12.30pm, All Saints Square. ●UAF is also mobilising against fascists in Slough and Croydon on the same day—see uaf.org.uk

STAND UP TO UKIP

Activists' day at the racists

STAND UP to Ukip (Sutu) has called a protest against the racist party in Doncaster on Saturday 26 September.

Ukip is holding its national conference at Doncaster racecourse in

the South Yorkshire town.

Sutu plans to "unwelcome" Ukip to the town on the day and will hold a rally and other events from 12 noon.

●standuptoukip.org

LOCAL GOVERNMENT

Care workers kick off Bromley strikes

by RAYMIE KIERNAN

COUNCIL WORKERS in Bromley, south London, launched a new wave of strikes against Tory mass privatisation plans last week.

Adult services care workers struck against plans to outsource the service to private firm Certitude at the beginning of October.

Astley day centre worker and Unite union rep Alan Brown told Socialist Worker, "We provide a crucial day service for people with physical and mental impairments.

"We have to fight tooth and nail against this."

The service includes games, arts, cookery and organising trips away.

Workers fear privatisation will drastically cut the service.



BROMLEY WORKERS are battling privatisation

Stuck

Alan said, "If they take this service away then some people will end up with nothing and be stuck sitting indoors."

He added, "Certitude has concealed its true intentions throughout this whole process.

"We know there are positions now being advertised through an agency but paying

£9,000 a year less."

The Bromley Tories are emulating their counterparts at other councils in England and shifting the focus towards commissioning rather than providing services.

As well farming out services, often to the cheapest bidder, attacking trade union organisation has been an essential part of the

commissioning model. It is also about propaganda.

At Bromley official reports have been produced creating the false impression that staff favour privatisation.

Consultations of residents that show opposition to privatisation have been ignored.

Bromley resident and Disabled People Against Cuts activist Paula told Socialist

Worker, "This affects us all. They want to create a two-tier system where only those who can afford it can get access to decent services.

"There won't be a welfare state left if we don't oppose them—it will devastate people's lives."

Workers in libraries began a five-day strike on Tuesday of this week.

TRANSPORT

United walkouts halt Night Tube plans in their tracks

THE INTRODUCTION of Night Tube on London Underground will not go ahead on 12 September as planned.

It's rather embarrassing for Tory mayor Boris Johnson—he insisted that workers could strike "until they were blue in the face" but it would make no difference as his plans "will go ahead".

United walkouts by the four Tube workers' unions shut down the network in July and August over the imposition of conditions by bosses to try and meet Johnson's start date.

Transport for London has now said it will delay the introduction until agreement with the unions.

That agreement has not yet been reached and more action could be on the cards.

The RMT union has served notice of its intention to strike between 8 and 10 September should sufficient progress not be made in talks.

The other three unions—Aslef, TSSA and Unite—have all said they will strike again if the employers do not offer an acceptable deal.

FIRST GREAT WESTERN

Striking for train safety in Wales and the South West

WORKERS AT First Great Western (FGW) rail struck for 72 hours over the bank holiday weekend.

Across the south west of England and in Wales key routes were severely disrupted with many cancellations.

There was heavy overcrowding on those trains that did run.

The workers' RMT union is fighting against new conditions and the impact on jobs, services and safety stemming from the introduction of high-speed intercity trains.

RMT said although some progress had been made in talks key areas in the dispute remain unresolved.

These include a lack of guards and buffet cars on new trains.

What is happening on FGW is not an isolated attack.

Bosses across the industry want to bring in driver-only



A striker in Bristol

operation as a means to squeeze more work out of staff and cut jobs to boost profits.

Bosses claim services will be faster and more frequent.

But there are serious implications if you cut jobs that could affect safety on the railways. And there is no doubt they will continue to hike up fares. FGW workers are right to strike.

DONCASTER

Shift changes are final straw for council workers

SOME 200 Doncaster council workers, including street cleaners and gravediggers, were set to walk out for ten days from Friday of this week.

The strike coincides with the start of one of the town's biggest events of the year, the St Leger horse racing festival.

The strike will hit departments including highways, grounds maintenance and cleaning.

Workers in the Unison, Unite and GMB unions are all involved in the action.

They are angry at changes to shift patterns and terms and conditions.

Doncaster Unison branch secretary Jim Board spoke to Socialist Worker in a personal capacity about the issues fuelling the dispute.

He said, "We've had five

years of austerity, cuts to local government services, attacks on terms and conditions and being made to 'do more with less'.

"The council's demand that workers now move to shift patterns which mean they would work 26 weekends per year have become the final straw."

Raymie Kiernan

●Send messages of solidarity to branch@doncaster-unison.co.uk

●Donate to the strike fund.

Send cheques payable to Doncaster Unison to Doncaster UNISON, 4th Floor, Colonnades House, Duke Street, Doncaster, DN1 1ER

●Pass a motion in your union branch in support of the strikers.

Go to uniteresist.org for a model motion

UNISON

Nominate John Burgess

THE NOMINATION period for the general secretary election in public sector union Unison opened on Wednesday of this week.

Activists have until 9 October to hold quorate union meetings to back John Burgess, currently Unison branch secretary in Barnet, north London.

Support from individual members and elected union officials is pouring in all the time. But that support needs

to be turned into official nominations to make sure John is on the ballot paper.

Regional meetings are being set up to organise and plan his campaign.

For activists in London there was a meeting planned on Wednesday of this week at 7pm at the School of Oriental and African Studies (Soas).

●More details at johnburgess4gensec.blogspot.co.uk

Solidarity with Max Watson

UNISON UNION rep Max Watson's appeal against compulsory redundancy was heard on Thursday of last week.

Max is the branch secretary of Unison at London Metropolitan University.

He is the only worker in his faculty facing compulsory

redundancy. Unison believes that bosses are deliberately targeting Max because of his union activities.

Max's supporters held a protest in solidarity with him on the day of his appeal.

The result was yet to be announced as Socialist Worker went to press.

ELBIT 19



Outside Burton Magistrates' Court

PROTESTERS arrested outside an Israeli arms factory in July appeared in court on Friday of last week.

As many as 19 people were arrested outside UAV Engines Ltd in Shenstone, Staffordshire, which is owned by Israeli arms company Elbit.

They are charged with breaching a High Court injunction barring protesters

from coming within 250 metres of the factory.

Of the 19, 15 appeared in Burton Magistrates' Court for an initial hearing.

All 15 pleaded not guilty and will appear in crown court on 27 November.

Supporters protested outside the court and at the factory in Shenstone during the hearing.

Nick Clark

SHAME OF TORY BENEFIT ATTACK

by DAVE SEWELL

HATED TORY minister Iain Duncan Smith is struggling to bury the truth about how many people have died after he cut their benefits.

For five years he has made unemployed and disabled people jump through ever more difficult hoops to get ever stingier benefits.

The bedroom tax, tests to find sick and disabled people “fit for work” and sanctions that condemn people to food banks have caused misery.

His Department for Work and Pensions (DWP) responded to a Freedom of Information (FoI) request last week following months of delay.

It asked how many benefit claimants have died after being found fit for work.

The figures showed that 2,650 benefit claimants died shortly after they were declared “fit for work” between December 2011 and February 2014.

Nearly all of them, 2,380 people, were claiming Employment and Support Allowance.



PROTESTERS HAVE challenged the Tories' benefit cuts

PICTURE: GUY SMALLMAN

The statistics included tables that Duncan Smith had claimed only a month previously did not exist.

Campaigners are angry that the DWP response didn't include enough information

to answer their question properly. But they know the tests are lethal (see below). So are benefit sanctions and the bedroom tax.

In a separate fight Duncan Smith is trying to stop the

publication of reviews carried out by the DWP into the deaths of specific claimants.

And around half of those people who are found fit for work drop out of the benefits system altogether. The Tories

make no attempt to find out what happens to them.

Duncan Smith has been repeatedly pulled up by the official statistics watchdog over his complicated relationship to the truth.

It took a ruling by the Information Commissioner to make the DWP reveal what data it has.

Mike Sivier, the campaigner who launched the FoI, could fight on in a tribunal in November.

The Tories like to pretend their benefit cuts are about being fair and getting people into work. They claim the cuts are popular.

But when the truth slips out widespread horror can quickly turn to anger.

Outsourcing firm Atos had to pull out of conducting work capability assessments after protests made its brand so toxic it started to risk its profits.

Now the United Nations is sending a special rapporteur to Britain to investigate whether benefit cuts are violating disabled people's human rights.

Resistance can make Duncan Smith's Victorian crusade against the poor history.

More online

The horrors of Atos tests
bit.ly/1ICVjpf

Humiliating tests drive claimants to their deaths

DOCTORS HAVE slammed the fit for work test procedure, known as a Work Capability Assessment (WCA).

Stuart Chester has Down's syndrome, epilepsy and autism. He can't feed or wash himself.

Yet Stuart became the latest target of the Tories' benefit assault last week.

He has been given a 20-page WCA application form to prove he needs disability benefits.

In the past people with missing limbs, terminal illnesses and even in comas have been found fit for work.

Their benefits are then snatched away.

Disabled people have

described being made to crawl on the floor to prove their disability.

Invisible conditions such as epilepsy and mental illnesses can be missed entirely during a short assessment, yet have huge implications

for a person's life.

And dozens of individual cases have given an insight into deadly effects of benefit cuts.

Karen Sherlock, Brian McArdle and Stephen Hill died from heart attacks after their

benefits were cut off.

Transplant patient Linda Wootton received the decision as she lay dying in her hospital bed. Mark Wood, suffering with mental health problems, starved to death.

Many more people took their own lives.

Paul Reekie, Leanne Chambers, Tim Salter, Edward Jacques, Elenore Tatton, Jacqueline Harris, David Bridge and Nicholas Barker all killed themselves after their WCAs.

Others fell to the stress and fear before the tests.

Get involved with campaigning against benefit cuts and to defend disabled people—go to dpac.uk.net

Workers leak instructions

JOB CENTRE workers in at least two areas have been given detailed instructions for dealing with benefit claimants threatening to self harm or kill themselves.

Workers piloting Iain Duncan Smith's Universal Credit scheme in Glasgow and Bolton leaked the instructions.

They are to wave a laminated pink card in the air to alert management.

Then they must quiz the claimant “specifically” on how and when they intend to self harm or kill themselves.

The instructions reassure workers that if they have “thoughts

and feelings” about this it is “normal”.

Universal Credit extends the power to sanction benefits by bringing together a number of payments.

Atos carried out work capability tests—before protests forced it out